



“Serve the Lord with gladness.” Psalm 100:2

Oregon Leaguer

Fall 2024

Oregon District President Debbie Weaver



Waiting with Eyes Focused



As the new Oregon District President, I have found myself seeking answers to many questions over the past few months. Numerous emails to answer, many policies and procedures to wade through for answers to questions that I have and that others have. It has been a daunting and overwhelming few months to be honest

with you.

Then I started to think about my 3-year-old lab, Bronco. You might know him. If you do not, I am sure you will end up meeting him at one of our meetings or gatherings.

He never passed Obedience Two training after going through the classes three separate times. He just did not comprehend the commands “wait” and “eyes.”

“Wait” means that he is to stay in the position that I have asked him to do. “Eyes” is then the command that we give before we release his position. “Eyes” is where the dog has laser focused attention only on you. Their eyes are not looking elsewhere but only concentrating on their owner and waiting for the next command.

As I thought about the words Wait and Eyes the story of Peter walking on the water came to my mind. I am quite sure we all know the story. Here are the words from Matthew.

And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:28-31).

Peter waited for the Lord to tell him to “come.” Peter had laser focused “eyes” on the Lord.

We often start out with good intentions in whatever we are doing. We wait for the Lord’s call. We keep our eyes focused on Him. How long does this usually last? If you are like my dog Bronco, the waiting period is hard and eventually he loses his focus. His mind drifts away. He loses sight of the goal and who is guiding and leading him.

Just like Peter we too at times take our eyes off Jesus. We tend to get impatient with Him. We lose focus and before we know it, we are sinking in the water.

As we begin this new biennium in the LWML Oregon District, I hope we find ourselves waiting on the Lord. I hope we are listening to His voice and His directions. I hope we are asking Him to help us.

And I pray that we keep our focus laser sharp and never take our eyes off Him.

To God be the glory!

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One Thing Needful

October! Already? It seems only a few weeks ago that we met in convention. And now, suddenly, the new biennium has shifted into high gear. Our new officers have transitioned and then convened for their first cycle of Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. The fall zone rallies have begun and prayerfully the mites ring from mite boxes to fund our seventeen ... yes seventeen! New Mission Grants.

When things get busy like this, I find it is helpful to reflect on the story of Mary and Martha. Only Luke gives us this treasure of Jesus' teaching. It appears in chapter 10 (38-42) immediately after the parable of the Good Samaritan. You know the story: Martha is bustling around attending to the "serving" and



interrupts Jesus asking him to direct Mary to stop sitting at his feet and get about the serving of

their guests. And then the punchline, "*Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her*" (Luke 10: 41-42).

What is that "good portion?" It is "the blessed, saving, soul-satisfying Word of Christ" as Lenski puts it. This is the calm, *the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding* (4.7) as Paul writes to the church at Philippi. Mary enjoyed the thing most precious, the focal point of everything that we, as the LWML, are about. Lose this and we've lost everything.

So how does that help? That little word "serve," I believe, holds the key to a right understanding. Elsewhere, in Matthew and Mark, we hear Jesus explain. "*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*" (Mark 10.45). There, in the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus was doing just that – serving. Mary understood and sat quietly to receive. Martha missed what was going on and attempted to supplant her own service. She got things out of order.

We can learn from both sisters as we deal with the busyness of the season. From Mary, to hear and receive the Word of Christ first. From Martha, once we have treasured that Word of Christ in our hearts, to then serve our neighbor by passing it on. That's where our Mission Grants come in. Why not select one grant each day or each week and pray for the Word-work being done by that organization and particularly how we will impact that "serving," that Word-work. And then joyfully to give thanks to God in prayer for the harvest He will produce.

Seventeen mission grants might seem overwhelming; we can become like Martha, "Lord, tell my sister ..." But if we take each grant one-by-one, recognizing how "the blessed, saving, soul-satisfying Word of Christ" serves to extend the kingdom of grace, then we can smile with Mary at our Lord's feet enjoying the one thing needful. Amen.



Tips from Servant Resources!

Help! I'm Drowning in a Sea of Paper



I was looking for my phone. There was a stack of papers on my desk, and I was sure my phone was there. What am I going to do with that mess of papers? I can't throw them out, they are unfinished assignments and

responsibilities that need to be dealt with.

How do I organize those papers? The AI (Artificial Intelligence) in my computer had good tips.



- **Get a file cabinet.** That's a good one. Move one messy pile to a stack of drawers.
- **Use a desk organizer.** I have too many papers for that, but I could put the most immediate needs there. I could stack trays for things to be filed: labelled house and home.
- **Clear the personal items off your desk.** What? That's getting personal. Okay, I'll move the autographed soccer ball to the bookshelf. Now, all I have left is the stapler, writing tools, paper clips, sticky notes, and a good lamp.

Now the papers are off my desk. They are on the bed that shares my office space. New place, same pile. Let's get to work.

- **Divide the paper into categories.** My big categories may differ from yours but here are the ones I use: LWML district, zone, group (separate piles), church, current home projects, hobbies, Do-Me-Now, health, reading, fun, lists.
- **Begin making sub-piles,** using the like-things-together principle.
- **Put your sub-piles into folders and title them.** Here's where things get interesting.

Let's talk **folders and a filing system.** Files for me are the Dead Letter System. Once I put papers away, they become Out-of-Sight, Out-of-Mind. **The key is to make them fun and make a list before you put the folder away.**

- **Label the folder.** Main heading, Sub-heading, topic

For example:



- **Color code** sections in the file drawer: You have categories, use colored folders, hanging files, or folder labels to identify the main categories. To save money, I make a colored line with a marker at the top of a folder, orange for district, yellow for zone, and green for group. You get the idea.
- **Keep the folders together** in their color categories.
- **Use a pencil** to write the title. Believe it or not, someday, this project will be finished.
- **List each project, job, or responsibility on paper** before you put the file away. The list will remind you of the work you must do without the bulk of papers connected to the work. This avoids the Dead Letter Syndrome.



I'm out of space, but now I see clearly what jobs I need to do. I'm no expert but this is helping me. I pray this helps you as you serve our Lord and each other. The phone was in the kitchen.

Janis Arnsdorf, Vice President of Servant Resources



Special Focus Ministries

Young Women
IN MISSION



Revelations 7:9 states, *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.*

For those of you who haven't met me yet, my name is Elizabeth Lopez, I attend Hope Lutheran in Woodburn. I am also married to the pastor, Zabdi Lopez. I grew up in a small Wisconsin town, while he grew up in one of the largest metropolitan areas of the world, Mexico City. This year, I was given the opportunity to further my role in LWML to VP of Special Ministries. As I took on this role, I reflected on where we are at in Woodburn, and the statistics we have.



As immigrants continue to arrive in the United States, we find ourselves with many neighbors speaking so many languages.

Where I live, our schools are about 70-75% Hispanic. According to many data sites, the fastest growing demographic is Hispanic or Latino. I spoke with one of our trained LWML heart to heart sisters, Marisol Valle. She told me about convention, but that it was a little hard because she felt like she wasn't sure if she fit in. The speakers and the participants were so vastly from another culture. I wanted to remind our Heart-to-Heart sisters and young women who are in our churches that our church is filled with many people. I remembered the beautiful talks Deaconess Noemi Guerra gave at the last National Youth Gathering. So, we invited her to speak, and began to plan an event! Marisol Valle and Hana Brandt gave many ideas of things we could do, what decorations to

make, and I got excited for the team that was coming together!

Next, we learned that we needed a budget. I talked with leaders at Hope who are regularly making tamales for different projects. I asked them if they would be willing to make tamales with me to support this venture. They heartily agreed, and we began selling tamales. As we

**TAMALE
FUNDRAISER**

neared the date of the tamale sale, I only had a portion of the list. I really thought we would need several tamale sales to gather the money necessary to bring a speaker. We needed a plane ticket and money to pay our speaker for her time. We figured that it would be about \$1000. As we began to make the tamales, I looked at our lists. I realized that we had sold many, but I hadn't really counted the entire amount it would raise. At the end of that weekend, we had the entire \$1000 we needed for our budget. We were overjoyed at the answer God gave to us!



Noemi arrived, and it was so exciting to hear of her ministry in Texas. They are raising up leaders in Texas through classes that Noemi and her team are writing. We were overjoyed to hear what her team is doing. Then, we had the event, and she spoke. She reminded us that Marisol is not alone in these feelings of not fitting in. We all have feelings that we don't fit in. With humor, she related it to the movie "Encanto" where Bruno is the family secret. No one talks about him, and she

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reminded us that in many ways, we all feel like Bruno at some point. Since Adam and Eve, this has been a problem. Division has come between humans in so many ways. She reminded us that although sometimes we want to try and make it so everyone is the same, that is also not the answer. It is unity that Jesus prayed for in John 15 to 17, but he doesn't pray for uniformity. In Christ, He makes everything beautiful and helps us to see beyond our cultural differences. God made us to serve Him!

There was an ingathering to Love, Inc, where Pastor Lopez is currently helping out once a week. Many people brought in donations, which will be brought to Love, Inc. Then, there was an offering to mites as well.

Next, the ladies were given the task to use Google Translate to talk with a person not from their church and maybe not from their culture. They were given three things women love to talk about...food, joys, and gifts they had. The beautiful part was seeing women from all nations speaking to each other. Women remembering that in Christ, "there is no longer Greek, nor Jew, nor" We are one in Christ, and women, together on mission, what a blessing we can be! We are praying that we will continue this work that God is beginning, and that each of you will be a part of this!

We are excited to have a team, Marisol Valle-Jimenez, Hana Brandt (Laughten,) and Carmen Nagel

Elizabeth Lopez, Vice President
of Special Focus Ministries.



Living in Prayer ... Fishing or Forgiving?

In the Word

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors (Matthew 6:12).

Of the Word

Imagine this: God takes billions and billions of sins to the deepest ocean and throws them into it. Then imagine that He posts a NO FISHING sign. The sins are gone, out of sight and out of mind.

What does God do with the sins He forgives? He promises to remember their sins no more (Jeremiah 31:34b). Though we are often reminded to "forgive and forget," only God can truly forget wrongdoing.

How different it is for us. Though we may speak forgiving words, though we may really want to forgive, our fishing poles are often ready to drag in the sin once more. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God assures us of forgiveness. He will never go fishing for our sins, and He expects us to put our fishing poles away, too.

How can we do that? Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can we fully and freely forgive others.

Walking with my Lord

Dear Lord, thank You for Your forgiveness. Help me to forgive others just as You always forgive me. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



Fall Zone Gatherings 2024



September 26-29 Thursday-Sunday	Juniper	Fall Retreat, Crescent Creek
September 28 10:30 am-2 pm	Southern	St. Peter Lutheran Church, Medford
October 5 9 am	Interstate	Trinity Lutheran Church, Portland
October 5 9 am-1 pm	Mt Hood	Ascension Lutheran Church Portland
October 5 9 am	West Hills	Bethlehem Lutheran Church Aloha
October 19 10 am-3 pm	Myrtlewood	St. Paul Lutheran Church Roseburg
October 19 9 am-2 pm	Pacific	Redeemer Lutheran Church Tillamook
October 19 9:30 am-2 pm	Willamette	Calvary Lutheran Church Stayton
	Emerald	No Fall Gathering Spring Gathering on May 10, 2025



Leaguer Schedule

Winter 2024

Submissions Due: December 1, 2024

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Send items and photos to:

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**LWML
Oregon
District
Convention
June 2024**



Mite Boxes — How They Began

Perhaps inspired by the various "cent" or "mite" societies of the early 1800s, the Woman's Mission to Woman (Baptist) urged members in its first circular letter in 1871 to use their new Mite Box to raise funds. The entire family was encouraged to contribute. The garnet-colored paper box had an opening on the top and the words, "Woman's Mission to Woman," in gold letters on the side.

Over the years, suggestions offered were:

- Put your pennies in the box at the end of each day
- Say "thank you" with an appropriate amount whenever calamity or misfortune has been averted
- Empty all your loose change from your kitchen coin bowl into the box on meeting day

Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel.



All Nations, All Languages

Young Women in Mission, Heart to Heart - Sisters of all Nations and other attendees participated in a special gathering at Hope Lutheran Church in Woodburn on August 17, 2024.

Deaconess Noemi Guerra was invited to be the presenter. She serves with the Texas District LCMS and is a writer of Lutheran Hour Ministries daily devotions in Spanish.



PRAYER CHAIN

Let us pray with you.

email:

lwml.or.prayerchain@gmail.com

Blessings on your day,

Lynne Beck, Prayer Chain Coordinator



View the Leader Development's Monthly

HUG-IN-A-MUG

<https://www.lwmlor.org/district-news>



LWML Oregon District

Website

lwmlor.org

LWML Website

lwml.org/home



Are you on Social Media? Facebook? We invite you to "LIKE" our page so you can see what is going on in our District!

Link: facebook.com/LWMLOregonDistrict/



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Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Oregon District Mission Statement

Lutheran Women in Mission will, by God's grace, ignite, involve, equip and encourage women of the Oregon District to express their faith as servants of the Triune God through joyful Christian Ministry.

ZONE PRESIDENTS

Emerald Zone—Delores Feddersen

Interstate Zone—Joyce Twiss

Juniper Zone Contact—Donna Luinstra

Mt. Hood Zone—Connie Adams

Myrtlewood Zone—Joan Mahaffy

Pacific Zone—Coleen Gurske

Southern Zone—Janis Arnsdorf

West Hills Zone—Judy Chase

Willamette Zone—Karen Clark



LWML Goal

Each woman of the LCMS is the Heart of LWML. Christ is in the heart of each woman as she engages in mission education, mission inspiration, mission service, and mission support. Each woman of the LCMS is invited to embrace her role as a Lutheran Woman in Mission.

"As a Lutheran Woman in Mission, I will share the joy and wonder of what is done through the LWML by the grace of God — the resources created, the missions supported, and the ministries provided."



Thanks be to God! We are HIS!

We are:

- H** Held by God's Word
- I** Inspired to share HIS Gospel
- S** Surrounded by HIS Grace

REMEMBER
TO TAKE
PICTURES!!!



Submit photos of your lwml gatherings and events to share with your lwml sisters.

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