

# Lenten Reflections

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Gayle Caruso**

During Lent, things look different. We go from celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ with trees and glitter, to very little adornment as we reflect on His journey to the cross.

My husband and I drove to Milwaukee, Wisconsin (yes, from Florida) for the President's Assembly meeting. As we traveled north, the difference in the landscape struck me. In Florida and Georgia, most everything is green. The further north we drove, the more I noticed that everything was brown. The trees were bare and there was no new growth to be

found. The snow had begun falling and to us, it was beautiful, but then you'd see the piles of snow that were grey and dirty. It's like sin. We are dirty in our sin, but are made clean by the waters of baptism. During Lent, we need to fix our eyes on Jesus and remember what He has done for us. I encourage you to use the devotions and Bible Studies on the website ([www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)) for your Lenten reflections.



**National Convention**- June 22-25, 2023- Milwaukee, WI. For more information, visit [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) and click on the Convention Central tab.

**District Retreat**- September 22-24, 2023- World Golf Village, St Augustine, FL. More information to follow on [www.flgalwml.com](http://www.flgalwml.com)

**VP COMMUNICATIONS****Susan Hanes**

When I was younger and through my early 20s, giving something up for Lent was a requirement for myself and something that came automatically. It was just what I did with no questions asked. One Friday evening in early Spring I had gone skiing with friends. I had barely eaten all day and, after spending some time on the slopes, I was starving. So, I ordered a bowl of chili. Halfway through, I panicked. I mean, really panicked. I had given up meat on Fridays for Lent and today was Friday. Many thoughts went through my head. One of the friends I was sitting with asked what was wrong. She too, was of faith and willingly had a conversation with me about it. She assured me that God was not going to strike me down, nor would anything terrible happen to me just because I didn't follow a rule

I had made for myself. I was convinced enough for the evening to finish my bowl of chili. However, that experience and that conversation took me on a journey of questioning the rules I was following and why I was following them.

Tradition and structure have its valuable place in the church. That is why I have made the choice to worship in a liturgical Lutheran church. However, it is also very freeing to have my relationship with God lead the way.

Isaiah 58:3-9 is a good passage to reflect on. Where is your heart when it comes to fasting? Does any type of shift need to be made?

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY****Christine Jennison**

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the sun* (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Our lives have been filled with getting “back on track”. During the pandemic, there was much less mite money received. Gradually giving increased, and then came the wonderful news that our National Mite goal has been attained!! Thank God! It feels like we are “back on track”!

Our LWML 2-Minute Tuesday ([lwml@lwml.org](mailto:lwml@lwml.org)) spoke of “Mite Box Legacy”, a short, two-person skit by Candy Habich. It might be of interest to your group.



Convention Fund – Oak Road Lutheran and Good Shepherd, NE GA Zone

Paulette Bernthal in loving memory of Kathy Cleveland

Hope Lutheran, Melbourne, FL

Scholarship Fund – St. Petersburg zone Fall Rally

Faith Lutheran, Parrish, FL

St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL

Grace Lutheran, Winter Haven, FL

St. Mark's Lutheran, Tucker, GA

St. Paul Lutheran, Miami, FL

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Missions -

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Sharon Shyrock, Sanford, FL

St. Mark's Lutheran, Tucker, GA

Karen McCarthy, Stuart, FL

Messiah Lutheran, Valdosta, GA

LWML Sunday- Trinity Lutheran, Trinity, FL

Ethel L Walker, Tifton, GA

Peace Lutheran, Dunnellon, FL

Grace Lutheran, Port St. Lucie, FL

Please, when you send in your donations, use the appropriate form for your donation. These can be found at the FL-GA LWML website, in this issue of the EVANGEL, or at [jennisons2000@aol.com](mailto:jennisons2000@aol.com).

**VP MISSION SERVICE****Silvia Grasberger**

I must confess it took me a little while to wrap my head around writing this article. I thought to myself, what does Easter mean to me? As a child growing up it was about the Easter bunny, egg hunts and a trip to Macy's in New York City for my new Easter outfit and then of course attending church on Easter with my family.

Now that I'm older and a little wiser, thanks to God and His word, Easter is about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who suffered, died and was buried only to rise on the third day for the

forgiveness of our sins.  
He Crushed it!!

But if we take a closer look there's more to His final days: *So, he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and*



*wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him (John 13:4-5 NIV).* Jesus was serving His disciples right to the end and giving them a valuable lesson on serving others as He did. *Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you (John 13:14 NIV).*



As LWML, we are servants of the Lord in everything we do for others, to bring the full Gospel of Jesus Christ and serve with Gladness.

**VP SPIRITUAL GROWTH****Carol Jones**

How fitting that this issue of the Evangel would focus on “Lenten Reflections”! Is there a time in the church year more suited for reflecting on what our God has done for us?

Ash Wednesday seems to come so quickly after our Christmas celebrations and before we know it we are in the season of Lent. We benefit so much from having these 40 days to think on, pray about, and focus on God’s gracious salvation plan and on Jesus’ obedience and sacrifice to fulfill that plan.

It can bring us to our knees when we reflect on our unworthiness to receive this gracious gift of salvation.

Why would my God do this for me – a poor, miserable sinner?

The music of the church is so moving during Lent - hymns that move our hearts to sorrow and repentance. Hymns like “When I Survey

the Wondrous Cross”, “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”, “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”, “My Song is Love Unknown”, and “Glory Be to Jesus”. Perhaps you’ll want to open your hymnal and read through the 33 Lenten and Holy Week hymns as we move toward Good Friday.

But wait...there's more!! Lent affords us respite each Sunday of the season as we continue to celebrate and rejoice in our Lord’s glorious resurrection.

There are a number of wonderful Lenten Devotions available through Concordia Publishing House ([www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)), or [www.1517.org](http://www.1517.org) that can open us to Scripture and new reflections. I hope you’ll find yourself wrapped up in one each day.



**VP MISSION GRANTS****Karen McCarthy**

*How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me? (Psalm 116:12 NIV)*

The Lenten season has always been a time for me to give up something as a way of honoring Jesus' sacrifices for me. Over the years I have abstained from chocolate (my greatest weakness!), snacks, TV time, etc. But what I have found most meaningful during Lent is to **give** the Lord **more** of my time—going above and beyond what I normally do and doing it with reflection on how much God loves me and wants me as His child. More time in His Word, more involvement in mission and ministry, more prayer time, and more reaching out to others to share His love using the gifts and

blessings He has given me are just a few of the ways that I have found most meaningful over the years. My prayers for you, dear sisters and brothers in Christ, are that you, too, will find special ways to connect with our Lord this Lenten season and will reach out with Him and for Him to share His love with others near and far. Bring the light of Christ into our needy world!

*Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess His name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased (Hebrews 13:16 NIV)*

**MISSION TRIP COORDINATOR****Scarlet Holcombe****HOUSE ON A LAKE** by Pastor Tim Brown

Imagine a large house sitting on a lake, and from your room you can see boats sailing, and smell the fish in the lake. It is peaceful and serene. However, you are not at this house for the scenery. Just down the road is a compound that houses almost 800 children. Children who are longing to hear more about Jesus, children who are thankful for the care they have received, and happily welcome people who come to see them. This place is Point of Grace, Kisumu, Kenya.

This past November I had the privilege of going to Point of Grace, and walking among those precious children. Listening to them tell the stories, and singing the songs. I had the joy of sharing the faith that lives within me with them and shining the light of God's love on them. It was a very moving experience. It was also an experience that you can be part of. This trip was a dual purpose trip, part medical, but also part spiritual. This trip was led by LWML ladies from Florida-Georgia and Wyoming Districts. I had the joy of meeting two very dedicated

Pastors who work tirelessly with these children. I met a staff of people who model Christ in their lives.

I did a presentation about this trip for my church on January 29<sup>th</sup>. You can still view it on YouTube, just search for Christ the King Lutheran Church Orlando, and you can learn more about this Point of Grace. I made a point in my Sunday sermon that each of those children and each of those staff members were a point of grace, as God poured His grace on them. I say the same thing to you: you are a point of grace; God is richly filling you up with His grace. I encourage you to share that grace each day of your life. I also encourage you to consider taking that grace to Kenya with us on one of the trips. For more information contact Scarlet, or myself. You will be amazed at what God can do through you with His grace.



Scarlet: [scarlet2@mindspring.com](mailto:scarlet2@mindspring.com)  
 Pastor Brown: [revtcbrown@gmail.com](mailto:revtcbrown@gmail.com)

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the LWML FL-GA District is to share the love of Christ with women of all ages and diversities and to foster a recognition that the mission field exists both at home and abroad.

**COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

As you listen to a sermon, which do you like to hear more of – the Law, or the Gospel?

**Please understand, the preaching of the Law is expected.** It's truly no surprise that we are poor, miserable sinners. ...**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God** (Rom 3:23). And so, we live in the midst of our poor, miserable sinfulness. It's no surprise to us when we hear the condemnation of the Law found in the Divine Service (setting three) liturgy, "*Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.*" And, because we are sinners, we know we deserve God's wrath and eternal punishment.

So it is, the condemnation of the Law might be terrifying, but it is not surprising. Why? Because the judgment of the Law is not surprising, as it is truly what we have earned and deserved. **The wages of sin is death** (Romans 6:23a). Think about it, what worker is surprised when they get their pay-check and see that they are simply being paid their proper/appropriate wages?

**On the other hand . . . the Gospel is always a surprise.** It's always unexpected and astonishing. Why? Because it's NEVER earned or deserved. ...**And (we) are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus** (Rom 3:24).

A gift is never earned or deserved. If it were, it wouldn't be a gift, would it? So it is with the gift of the forgiveness of our sins from God. Because it is a gift. It's free . . . AND, it is unexpected, no matter how many times we hear it. **The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord** (Romans 6:23b). And so it is, the Gospel is always a surprise. God speaks to us, "*I forgive you all of your sins.*"

We respond, with surprise and delight, "Me! My sins? You are forgiving me?"

God replies, "*Yes, you. All your sins are forgiven through the death of My Son, Jesus.*" "For me?" The surprise and delight goes on,

**JR. COUNSELOR— Rev. Dana Narring**

"How can that be? I don't deserve that."

*"This is true, you don't deserve it. It's my free gift to you."*

"For me? Oh, thank you Lord for your great love and mercy!"

Dear Friends, the good news is so great, that it is never really expected. And so, once again, every time we hear the Gospel, it is new, unexpected, and a surprise.

**As we look toward the penitential season of Lent, may God (through His Holy Spirit) grant us listening hearts and minds to hear all of His blessed word, both Law, and Gospel.**

May we listen to His Law, then turn from our sins and repent.

And, as forgiven sinners in Christ Jesus, may we truly embrace the astonishing and unexpected surprises that are always given through His Gospel – sharing that same forgiveness, mercy, grace, and love that we've been given with everyone we meet!

God bless you during Lent . . . and always!

**SUMMER EVANGEL DEADLINE**

May 5, 2023

Send articles & photos to:  
[evangel.flga@gmail.com](mailto:evangel.flga@gmail.com)

Write in **Word** with pics as attachments.

**Exec Board:** 250 words

**Zone Articles:** one paragraph plus pics  
**PLEASE list everyone in all photos**

**SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN****Lois Ford****Lenten Reflections from Then and Now**

I have been spending a considerable amount of time organizing the clutter in my guestroom. My big decision is what to keep and what to purge. I am amazed at some of the reflections from the past that I am finding. Discovering some photos and information about my maternal great grandmother was a personal treasure.

**J. Rockey**

I also found some District Scholarship treasures. My favorite was a scholarship recipient from 1995 that I found in an old Evangel issue. We know him today as District President James Rockey (left). When I told him what I found, he said, "I had dark hair.... LWML was a true blessing in covering us in prayer, providing financial support and in being true encouragers during our seminary journey!"

Another from a few years ago: Tim and Dawn Handrick (right) just celebrated their 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The photo is from 'then'. Remember them and family in your prayers as he continues his education.



And from now: Joshua Warham (left) is enjoying his time at the Seminary. He claims he is learning insights into our faith that are new to him. He is excited to receive straight A's in all his classwork. The photo is his "first" wearing his clerical collar. Soon he will be able to preach for the first time.



As YOUR Lenten Reflections continue, as President Rockey said, to encourage and cover them all in your prayers and possibly giving a special "Love Gift" to the scholarship fund. Pray too, for those men and women in your congregation to step out in faith and consider full time church work.

**NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONE****Cinara Navarro - President**

Our zone's annual Prayer Service was held at Peace Lutheran in Dunnellon, with 26 ladies and two pastors attending. Pastor Beaverson-Zone Pastoral Counselor, led the service, which is very beautifully written by Rev. Dr. Mitchel Schuessle. Pages with specific categories of concern (Military friends or family members,

LWML ladies we've lost in the past year and their families, personal family members) were filled out before the service and the lists given to Pastor to read during the "Time for Personal Reflection" sections. We all had a wonderful time catching up with friends only seen a few times a year.

# Around the Zones...

## GREATER ORLANDO ZONE – FL

Carol Lynn Scheer - President

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Orlando, will host our LWML Spring Rally on Saturday, April 15. The Rally theme is **"Trust and Obey"**.

*Trust in the Lord with all of your heart- lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight* (Proverbs 3:5 and 6 ESV)

Lutheran Haven will have their semi annual Flea Market Saturday, April 22 from 8:00 - 1:30 p.m. Proceeds help fund projects/items, that are not in the budget, for Lutheran Haven Assisted Living Facility and Memory Care Facility.

### We want news about YOUR zone!

Send a **paragraph and pictures**  
**evangel.flga@gmail.com** to be included in an upcoming issue!  
**Please identify everyone**

## ST. PETERSBURG ZONE – FL

Gayle Leppert - President



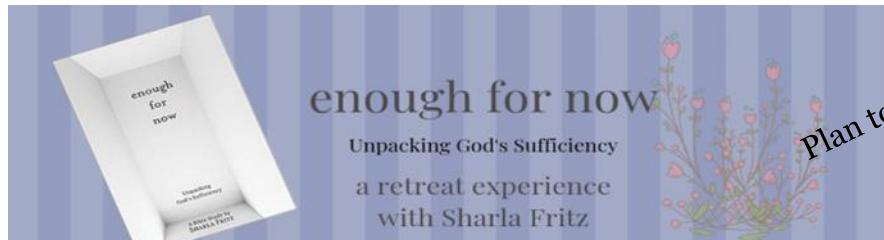
Fall Rally at Grace Lutheran, November 5, 2022



Nancy Doig, Kathy Miller, Gail Leppert and Bonnie Larson. Bethel Lutheran LWML are greeters the first Sunday of every month.

## LWML FL-GA DISTRICT RETREAT September 22 – 24, 2023

World Golf Village, St. Augustine, Florida



Sharla Fritz is a Christian author and speaker who weaves honest and humorous stories into life-changing Bible study. Author of Bible studies including *Enough for Now*, *Waiting*, *Soul Spa*, and *Bless These Lips*, Sharla writes about God's transforming grace. Her newest book, *God's Relentless Love*, helps readers discover God's redeeming and unfailing love in the sometimes confusing Old Testament book of Hosea.

Sharla lives in the Chicago suburbs with her amusing pastor husband. They have two grown children and five grandchildren. Other pursuits include teaching piano and directing the church choir. Sharla loves traveling, reading, and hunting down fabulous finds at the resale shop.

Plan to be a part of this!



Watch for registration info in May!

# Around the Zones...

## TREASURE COAST ZONE – FL

Cheryl Nolte - President

The wonder of spring has arrived, as have thoughts of renewal. Meetings, bake sales, Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter breakfasts, and celebrations, will undoubtedly keep us busy. May we be inspired to take time to reflect on the significance of these events, to spend time with family and friends, to share and rejoice, and, most importantly, to spend time with Jesus!

We held our fall rally on October 15, at Grace Lutheran in Port St. Lucie, with 42 people in attendance. Our theme was *And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God* (Eph 5:2 ESV).

We unveiled our new, stunning, zone banner, and everyone was “wowed” by it.

We are looking forward to the Milwaukee Convention, and pray for safe travels for all. To God be the Glory!



New Treasure Coast Zone Banner

L-R below: Laura Hess; Carol Fraher (seated); Katherine Ward; Doris Hoffman; Leigh Liagre, Our Brothers Keeper Socks for the Homeless Plea; Tena Sigmon; Jan Lendak; Nancy Oldham; Holly Tetzloff



Gifts from the Heart, over 600 pairs of socks collected for Our Brother's Keeper for the Homeless!

## 2023 ZONE RALLY DATES

### ATLANTA

Living Faith, Cumming, GA  
Sat., TBD, 2023

### EAST CENTRAL GEORGIA

Christ Lutheran, Perry, GA  
Sat., April 22, 2023

### HEARTLAND

Faith Lutheran, Clewiston, FL  
Sat., March 25, 2023 (New date)

### NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

Faith Lutheran, Lecanto, FL  
Sat., April 22, 2023

### SARASOTA

Lakeside Lutheran, Venice, FL  
Sat., March 11, 2023

### ST. PETERSBURG

Our Savior, St. Petersburg, FL  
Sat., April 1, 2023

### S PALM BEACH/TREASURE COAST

Redeemer, Stuart, FL  
Sat., March 18, 2023

### SOUTHWEST

Bethlehem, Ft. Myers, FL  
Sat., March 18, 2023

### TALLAHASSEE

University Lutheran, Tallahassee, FL  
Sat., April 29, 2023

### TROPICAL

St. Paul, Miami, FL  
Sat., March 25, 2023

### WINTER HAVEN

Our Savior, Zephyrhills, FL  
Sat., March 4, 2023

 <b>LWML</b> <small>Florida-Georgia District</small>	<b>LWML Florida-Georgia District</b> <b>MEMORIAL Remittance Slip</b> <u>Make all checks payable to LWML FL-GA District</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rectangular Slip			
Date: _____ Check #: _____			
In memory of _____ In honor of _____ In celebration of _____ Name: _____			
Donated by: _____			
Donated for:    Mites \$ _____ Scholarship Fund \$ _____ Endowment Fund: \$ _____ LWML Convention Fund \$ _____ Other (specify fund) \$ _____			
Name and address of family member where acknowledgement letter can be sent  _____			
Donor Name & Address <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>MAIL TO</b>            Christine Jennison, Financial Secretary            LWML FL-GA District            114 Fairlane Cir., Sanford, FL 32773         </div>			
Revised 11/22/2022			

 <b>LWML</b> <small>Florida-Georgia District</small>	<b>LWML Florida-Georgia District</b> <b>2022-2024 Biennium - Remittance Slip</b> <u>Make all checks payable to LWML FL-GA District</u>		
Date: _____ Check #: _____			
Mites: \$ _____ LWML Sunday: \$ _____ Prayer Service: \$ _____			
Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ District Mission Trip: \$ _____ Endowment Fund: \$ _____			
LWML Convention Fund: \$ _____			
Church City, State _____		Church Name _____	
Your Name _____		Telephone _____	Your Email _____
Your Address  _____			
<div style="text-align: center;"> <b>MAIL TO</b>            Christine Jennison, Financial Secretary            LWML FL-GA District            114 Fairlane Cir., Sanford, FL 32773         </div>			
Revised 11/22/2022			

**LWML FL-GA DISTRICT****DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

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Could be You!

**MISSION GRANTS DISBURSED AS OF 2/10/2023**

MISSION GRANT RECIPIENT	GRANT	DISBURSED	BALANCE As of 2/10/2023
1. Scholarships for Pastoral & Church Worker Students	\$30,000.00	14,000.00	\$16,000.00
2. Food and Clothing Co-op, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
3. A Rising Need, A Spiritual Opportunity	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
4. Blessings in a Backpack	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00
5. Healthy Children	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
6. Feed the Children- Peru	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
7. Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry	7,500.00	2000.00	5,500.00
8. Filling Haitian Children Spiritually and Physically	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
9. Rebecca's Garden of Hope Next Level	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
10. Dominican Republic Disability Ministry	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
11. Christ Lutheran Mission	8,800.00	0.00	8,800.00
12. What Does This Mean- Bible Books for Haitian Families	8,500.00	0.00	8,500.00
13. Lutheran Hands and Hearts Helping with Haitian Earthquake Response	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00
14. Bringing Spanish Braille Bibles to Central & South America	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
15. Migrant Resettlement and Assistance	7,432.00.23	4,000.00	3,432.23
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$147,232.23</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$127,232.23</b>

HAPPY SPRING,

HAPPY EASTER!

