

# THE GOOD NEWS

*Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at your presence (Isaiah 64:1).*

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

Ready or not, here comes Advent! This year Advent is the *shortest* it can be: 21 ½ days. The morning of December 24 – being a Sunday this year – is still considered Advent. This year it's the Fourth Sunday in Advent. This year I'll admit I'm not sure if I'm ready. My definition of "ready" usually has something to do with my mood – am I in the mood for Advent? The skeptic might point to the early snows we've had and conclude a snow-loving preacher is ready for Advent when there's snow on the ground. However, I'm simply admitting a truth which I cannot explain. I'm just not ready.

Ready or not, here comes Advent! Regardless of my fickle mood...the truth remains. Advent is coming! And, truth be told, *praise God Advent is coming!* Advent celebrates the three different times in human history that Jesus Christ has (or will... or does) come into our lives. We certainly focus upon the coming celebration of His birth in Bethlehem. Through the short four Sundays of Advent (three weeks and part of one day, but I digress!) we will transition from the prophetic message of the Messiah to the particular, fascinating details of His birth. The glow from the manger will be growing as we work our way through Advent. We will see the joy on the students' faces as they share the joy of Jesus' birth in the Christmas Services. Advent also helps us long for the day of Christ's return. Dr. Luke, the Gospel writer, records Jesus' encouragement about recognizing the signs that His return is drawing near, *Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near* (Luke 21:28). Yes, indeed, come, Lord Jesus!

However, the coming – the Advent – of Jesus that most speaks to my heart right now is His immediate coming through the means of Word and Sacrament. Right now, in these days, in the midst of our current struggles, comes Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah Jesus Christ doesn't wait for an invitation into our lives. He breaks through to give peace in these days of struggles and strife. In the midst of "class warfare" He comes as the Prince of Peace, the one who unites us all in His love and grace. He comes in the midst of my guilt and shame to bring the soothing balm of forgiveness and mercy. He isn't even waiting for me to get my act together (or to tune my fickle feelings to the marvelous harmony of His Advent). He comes! And the arrival of the King of kings and Lord of lords in our lives always causes a joyful celebration.

Praise God! Ready or not, here comes Advent! Here comes Jesus!!

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

*(Lutheran Service Book, #357 St. 1)*

Pastor Bill Mueller  
Senior Counselor (Acts 16:31)

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## PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

## SARAH RIPPY

*Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit (Jeremiah 17: 7-8).*



What does trust in the Lord look like? I feel like we are in a drought right now. Can we to trust Him to provide for us and bring the fruits of our labors? Do our leaves remain green? Are we anxious?

What fruit do you bear? I look around my home, my work and my church and I wonder where are the fruits of my labor? In my job as a school counselor, I feel like I give daily, providing support for the many students, parents and teachers who need assistance and help. Each day brings a new challenge or responsibility. But do I see fruits of my labor? Many times, I don't see the result and don't know the impact of my actions and words. My effectiveness as a school counselor is quantifiable and I need to know that I am making a difference, but is that important when we serve the Lord?

Christ commands us to *Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)*. Does he ask us to report the results? Should we calculate the data and analysis of our actions? Should we prepare spreadsheets of the people we have reached? Where are the fruits? Do we trust in God to bring the increase? I know we should constantly strive to do our best, but our best is really not that much. Our actions are but a small part of the work God is doing on this earth and in our lives. We will faithfully continue to serve the Lord with gladness and seek to do His will whether we can see the fruits of our labors or not. We remain steadfast and faithful to the Lord; He is our Trust. He will bring the increase. He is our salvation!

Here is a Bible Study from the LWML website that may help you in your search for the fruit of your labors: [Sharing our Gifts As We Work for the Lord Bible Study](#), [Sharing our Gifts Leader Guide](#)

God bless your Christmas preparations and celebrations,

*Sarah Rippy*

*LWML Indiana District President*



## MISSION GRANTS INDIANA DISTRICT 2022-2024

Name of Grant	Amount Requested	Amount Paid
Concordia Educational Association, Inc, Fort Wayne, IN	\$10,000	\$10,000
Concordia Seminary Food Bank, Saint Louis, MO	\$10,000	\$10,000
Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op, Fort Wayne, IN	\$10,000	\$5,000
Cross Connections Counseling, Fort Wayne, IN	\$10,000	\$10,000
Gloria Dei Hispanic Mission, Valparaiso, IN	\$10,000	\$10,000
Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW), Kouts, IN	\$10,000	
Lutheran Theological Seminary, Siberia	\$10,000	\$10,000
MOST Ministries, Elizabethtown, KY	\$3,400	
Phil's Friends, Crown Point, IN	\$10,000	\$10,000
Sharing Christ with Dear Listeners, Michigan City, IN	\$10,000	\$10,000
St. John Lutheran Church, Rochester, IN	\$7,300	\$7,300
St. John Preschool and Daycare Mission, Peru, IN	\$4,300	\$4,300
Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Darmstadt, IN	\$5,000	\$5,000
Voice of Care, Indianapolis, IN	\$10,000	\$10,000
Worship Anew/Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc, Fort Wayne, IN	\$10,000	\$10,000

## MISSION GRANTS

## IRIS WITTMAN

MORE MITE MONEY AT WORK! Keep those mites coming. It's amazing the work that is accomplished through our donations. The pictures below are from St. John's Lutheran Church in Rochester. Their grant (\$7,300) was for their program *Celebrate Recovery*. With the funds received, they were able to provide meals weekly for approximately 30 people, completely furnish a house except for appliances, and outfit children for school for 26 families. God has certainly blessed this project!



A baby shower was held for one of the girls from *Celebrate Recovery*. She is expecting twins and has no family.

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## HUMAN CARE

## JACKIE ALBERS

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### Joy in Serving the Lord

As the Human Care Committee gears up for our district convention this coming June, I am reminded of the joy that comes with serving at the district level. With human care especially, the Lord leads us to connect with service organizations across Indiana and Central Kentucky and share service opportunities with our sisters in Christ and congregations. I have met so many new friends with a passion for service and look forward to meeting more in the coming months.

Please remember that the Human Care Committee is here to support you with resources for both speakers and servant events for your group meetings and zone gatherings. Contact Jackie Albers at [jakkopp@yahoo.com](mailto:jakkopp@yahoo.com) for more information. We are constantly updating our list so if you have an organization or individual to add to our resource list feel free to contact Jackie.



*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies--in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen (1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV).*

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## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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The Scholarship Committee receives applications for scholarships of \$500 at an LCMS affiliated school for those planning to major in one of the following professions: Minister, Teacher, Parish Worker, Deaconess, Minister of Music, or Director of Christian Education. They then make recommendations to the LWML Indiana District Executive Committee for approval.

Contributions can be made to the LWML Indiana District to help fund these scholarships. Suggested occasions for making contributions are birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, weddings (JOY cards), or memorials (MEMORIAL cards) in honor of a loved one. See the LWML Indiana District website for instructions and for cards that can be printed off to send to the recipients. Send your check with your contribution to the Financial Secretary:

Rachel Huebschman  
241 E Robert E Lee Day Rd  
Santa Claus, IN 47579



Rachel will forward this information to Renee South, Scholarship Chair. Questions, please contact Renee South at [south87@sbcglobal.net](mailto:south87@sbcglobal.net) or (317) 748-6450.

# CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

# DIANE CONRAD

## Incorporating Prayer in Our Lives

Prayer is vital in our spiritual life. It is a conversation with God. We can talk to God anytime, but if you are at a loss as to where to begin, try looking in our Catechism and other Lutheran prayer sources such as our hymnal.

Below is a prayer plan that was shared by Pastor Kearney and Pastor Wolfmüller. It consists of Luther's morning and evening prayers, our statement of faith and the 10 Commandments. Prayers and declarations of faith remind us of the Lord's presence and keep us strong. Prayer is a gift of God for us to use to praise Him and communicate with Him.

### Prayer Plan:

**Begin with the sign of the cross.**

**Recite Luther's Morning Prayer:**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**Recite the Apostles' Creed:**

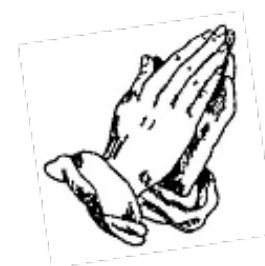
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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 was 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

**Recite the 10 Commandments:**

1. You shall have no other gods.
2. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.
3. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not murder.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.



**Recite the Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

# HEART TO HEART

# MICHELE YAMANAKA

## WHERE'S THE MONEY?

Remember the Wendy's ad that boldly asked, "WHERE'S THE BEEF?" Let's switch the subject to money. We have many multicultural ministries in the Indiana District, such as Hispanic outreach in Indianapolis and Northeast Indiana, South Sudanese ministry in Louisville, Kentucky, Chinese missions in the Evansville area, Burmese ministry and African Immigrant ministry in Fort Wayne, Tamil (India) mission efforts in Indianapolis, Japanese outreach in central Indiana, and more. Our Christian sisters who help in these often see great opportunities to share Jesus with others of their own diverse cultures, but they are stymied because the opportunities require money to make them happen. Usually, they are working with the pastors of their churches or specially designated church workers. The opportunities are put on their hearts, but the funds are lacking.



Here is where you come in. The Indiana District offers the chance to apply for grants to fund projects. The pastors and Christian sisters in the middle of multicultural efforts often do not know about this. One of our Mission grants may be exactly how God plans to provide for their mission effort. Even if they know about the grants, they may not feel adequate to apply for one. Perhaps English is not their native language. Perhaps they are so busy in the ministry that they cannot find the time to apply.

*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19 KJV).*

Please ask God to open your eyes to notice the ethnic pastors and multi-cultural sisters who may be around you and encourage them in their work by telling them about the mission grant possibilities. **Perhaps you can even volunteer to help them write a grant proposal!** There are two kinds of grant proposals: \$5000 and under and \$5001 to \$12,000. So far, since the \$5000 grants have been offered, each \$5000 proposal has received funding. Proposals for the larger amount are mainly funded, but some each year do not get funded. Starting with the smaller grant would be recommended. The deadline for submitting grant proposals is January 15, 2024. The grant proposals will be voted on at our 2024 Indiana District convention in June. For complete details, please go to <https://www.lwmlindiana.org/> then click on Resources, then click on Applications. Scroll down to the bottom to "Mission Grant Application 2024."

You can make a difference as you help your multicultural sisters and congregations in ministry. If you want contact information about a particular ministry, please email Michele at [yamanakam@cs.com](mailto:yamanakam@cs.com). She can also send you the Mission Grant application, if you have trouble locating it on the website.



# 2024 LWML INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION COUNTDOWN

## 7 Months Until Convention

All women are invited to attend the LWML Indiana District Convention,  
**Rooted in Christ, June 21-23, 2024.**

- **Where:** Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center, Danville, IN
- **Verse:** Ephesians 3:17 . . . rooted and grounded in love
- **Mission Statement:** Each person would deepen their relationship with Christ
- **Hymn:** *Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing* (LSB 691)
- **Keynote Speaker:** Jennie Williamson, singer and presenter on Saturday titled "Overcoming Adversity By Being Rooted in Christ" and "Rooted in Christ for Generations to Come."
- **Song Leader:** Amanda Ness, St Peter Lutheran, North Judson

### What to know about convention:

- \* Travel Friday morning to arrive in time to sing in the choir:  
Dr. Chris Wilson, Faith Lutheran, Greenfield, will serve as our organist and choir director.
- \* Participate in the servant events on Friday from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- \* Sign up for a special Oktoberfest meal on Friday, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- \* Participate in the **LWML IN TALENT NIGHT** on Saturday, June 22.  
Do you have a talent to share? Contact [becky.thibodeau@trinityindy.org](mailto:becky.thibodeau@trinityindy.org) to set up your audition.
- \* Stay in Plainfield hotels or enjoy 75 full hook-up camper sites on the grounds.  
Housing information will appear in the February *Good News* and on the website.
- \* Register online in February 2024.  
Registration is strongly encouraged to be completed online.
- \* Provide LWML with names of displayers.

### Prayer Request:

- Pray for the **Executive Committee**, as they select speakers and make plans.
- Pray for the Lord to provide **women to serve** on the Convention Committee.
- Pray for **speakers** to be available and willing to participate in our convention.

Questions?: Contact Emily Rogers at 765-778-7654 or [emily12rogers6@gmail.com](mailto:emily12rogers6@gmail.com)

**Watch for monthly announcements and prayer requests,  
as we Count Down the months and weeks to convention. Start making plans to attend.**





# LWML Indiana Talent Night

June 22, 2024

## Featuring: You?

The Executive Committee is seeking talented participants, both young and old, to perform in a variety show at convention.

Interested?

Email Becky Thibodeau at [becky.thibodeau@trinityindy.org](mailto:becky.thibodeau@trinityindy.org) to set up your audition!

**Audition Deadline: February 15, 2024.**





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<b>LEADER DEVELOPMENT CHAIRMAN</b>	(vacant)		
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## BULLETIN BOARD NEWS

### SAVE THE DATE

LWML Indiana District Convention

**“Rooted In Christ”**

June 21-23, 2024

Hendricks County Conference Center and 4-H Fairgrounds, Danville, IN

### GOOD NEWS - NEW LOOK

Thank you for reading the *Good News*! Do you like the new look? This streamlined look is easier to edit and assemble. It will function just as the old look did. You will be able to print and share the pages with those who would benefit from the information in the *Good News* or digitally share the information. Thank you to all those who contribute and assist in proof reading. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact Bev McIntosh, Editor at [LWMLeditor@comcast.net](mailto:LWMLeditor@comcast.net).

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Send all money collected for mites, Quarterly, scholarship and all contributions to the Financial Secretary:

Rachel Huebschman  
241 E Robert E Lee Day Rd  
Santa Claus, IN 47579  
[57tigger22@gmail.com](mailto:57tigger22@gmail.com)

### PRESERVE LWML HISTORY

PLEASE send your district and/or zone minutes and programs! All prior year information is welcome. Send via email, U.S. Mail or bring them to any district event.

Shirley Gut, Archivist-Historian  
21 Fleet Parkway  
Culver, IN 46511  
[slcp@att.net](mailto:slcp@att.net)