The 66th Convention of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod will be held July 9 - 14, 2016 in Milwaukee at the Wisconsin Center.

The national convention of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod shall afford an opportunity for worship, nurture and inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information.

The convention is the principal legislative assemble, which amends the Constitution and Bylaws, considers and takes action on reports and overtures, and handles appropriate appeals. It establishes general positions and policies of the Synod, provides overall program direction and priorities, and conducts business in order to provide responsible service for and on behalf of its members.

Pastor Martin will be attending the convention as the Circuit 13-West delegate and has been appointed to serve on the Floor Committee for Reformation.
From the Pastor

Logs and Specks

Being a delegate to a convention of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod means getting a lot of mail. Every organization with an axe to grind will send you something scandalous. It has opened my eyes to the unhealthy state of our church body - like sitting next to someone with a bad cold and watching the garbage can fill up with used tissues. Not a pretty sight. Both the “liberals” and the “conservatives” of our church have become adept at “gotcha theology”. Nasty accusations about “conservative” synod officials using their influence to remove bureaucrats who might have been questioning the propriety of their dealings have been aired (with no specific allegations and a glaring absence of proof or witnesses who will speak on record). That comes from the “progressive” or “liberal” group.

But the most egregious piece of “gotcha theology” I’ve gotten yet came from the “conservative” Christian News. It was a booklet that I received in the mail (the progressives tend to use electronic media, but the conservatives are appropriately old school and still use the good old USPS) containing a purported article by the Rev. Dr. Jeff Kloha, Professor of Biblical Theology at our Concordia Seminary St. Louis and also included an attack on Prof. Kloha (and said article) by John Warwick Montgomery as well as proposed resolutions to the convention calling for Prof. Kloha’s removal from the seminary and Synod clergy roster for his “heresy”. It was a fat little booklet!

Ordinarily, I would have cast it into the trash can unread, but I was curious if the “conservatives” are as feisty these days as the “progressives” (they are!). Also, I happen to know Prof. Kloha. We used to get together with a couple of other pastors when I was in Akron, OH (he was a pastor in Cleveland) for a little study group (we’d read the confessions and “difficult” theology books. It was sort of theological weight training). Prof. Kloha is a very faithful pastor and extremely learned (really buff, intellectually). I took a continuing ed class from him two years ago and found his scholarship and teaching to be first rate and very helpful (it was a class on the so-called Gnostic Gospels that Dan Brown has made so much money publicizing - Prof. Kloha did a great job in showing exactly how and why these are not genuine gospels at all and were not in fact “suppressed” by some fanatical Christian hierarchy, as Dan Brown and others allege). So I know first-hand that Prof. Kloha is a most orthodox and faithful teacher of the Faith.

Prof. Kloha had given a paper several years ago at a scholarly conference in Germany on the latest edition of the Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament (the standard scholarly text of the New Testament in the original Greek, now in its 29th edition). Without his permission, a draft of this presentation was published online and created a stir. Prof. Kloha was making a presentation on a complex matter of text criticism that is not easy even for specialists to follow, but it is quite easy to pull theologically salacious sounding quotes out of context from it, if one wants to stir up some controversy. We have over 5,000 manuscripts and fragments of the Greek New Testament, all copies, none of them the originals. These manuscript copies range from the 2nd century up through the 8th A.D., and come from all over the ancient world. There are some slight differences between them, so determining what is the “original” text of the New Testament is a very involved process scholars have been engaged in for centuries.

With computers and online resources making it possible to analyze thousands of readings, according to dozens of different criteria, Prof. Kloha showed how the trend in text criticism is not to say “this is the original text” but “here are the best options” and let the readers reconstruct a “plastic” (fluid and eclectic) text for him/herself, based on what each deems the most convincing criteria (i.e. you think the NT texts that come from 4th century Alexandria are better because they are a couple centuries older, but I like the ones that come from 6th century Constantinople because I think there was tighter oversight there of the copying process. New tools allow us to reconstruct the NT text, each for ourselves, based on the criteria we find most compelling instead of letting an anonymous committee determine the “best text” autocratically for us all).

Now, it needs to be said that the differences in the Greek texts do not affect any of the essential teachings of the New Testament. Jesus is still the Son of God, and true man, born of the virgin Mary Who died on the cross for our sins and rose bodily for our redemption, and He commune with us (really and truly and bodily!) by His Word and Sacraments administered to us by the Church, and this is precisely so, in every single manuscript! But whether Jesus went to the Gerasenes or to the Gadarenes; whether St. Mark’s Gospel ends with the women trembling and afraid, or with them seeing the Risen Lord; and whether the woman caught in adultery is really part of John chapter 8 are questions that can only be settled by considering the evidence for the different readings, because different manuscripts read differently on these things, and also smaller matters like variations in verb tenses and short phrases here and there (i.e., in our Gospel last Sunday from Luke 9, in the Byzantine text tradition Jesus rebukes James and John for wanting to call down fire from heaven to destroy the Samaritan village by saying “You do not know what spirit you are of, for the Son of Man has not come to destroy people’s lives, but to save them!” but in the Alexandrian manuscripts, we are just told “Jesus rebuked them”).

I don’t think any of these things really affect our proclamation of Jesus as Lord and Christ at all, but I neither do I think figuring out questions like those above are unimportant. Prof. Kloha’s pirated draft of his presentation supported this view and showed how new tools allow us to be better informed as to the original text, but also require us to rely a little more on the Church’s judgment than on our own private reason.

cont. page 3
And this was unacceptable to Mr. Montgomery. Because he holds that “divine inspiration” only applies to the original apostolic “autographs” and nowhere else, he hates hearing that we can’t reconstruct the original text with perfect 100% accuracy or certainty (I’d say we’re about 95%, which is certainly good enough for us to say after every Scripture reading, “This is the Word of the Lord”). But Montgomery can’t live with that. Kloha notes that old Lutherans were quite comfortable with a “close enough to the original” text because they believed inspiration wasn’t limited to a piece of paper Paul signed in Corinth in 55 A.D., but extends to the whole process of giving the Word through the Apostles, putting it in writing, preserving the Word for us in accurate enough copies, guiding the church to discern the best texts and produce accurate translations (honestly I think far more theological problems are created by misleading English translations than by poorly reconstructed Greek texts). Jesus didn’t tell the Apostles He would send them the Holy Spirit “only” through your inspired, original (or perfectly reconstructed) autograph writings” but that He would be with us always and so would His Spirit to guide us into all truth (John 16:12ff, Matt. 28:19ff).

In his attack on Prof. Kloha, Mr. Montgomery lamented that if we can’t tell people we have a 100% certain reconstruction of the original inspired autographs (even if we really don’t), then we couldn’t use the Scriptures as a razor sharp sword to judge the Church, expose heretics, and defend the faith in a rationally and evidentially flawless way to outsiders - activities Mr. Montgomery seems to regard as Christians essentials. Now I could be wrong on this, but I seem to recall Jesus saying something, somewhere, about not judging others, lest we be judged by the same harshness we’re inclined to use. St. Paul says he doesn’t even judge himself, because the One who judges all is the Lord Jesus, and until He returns to render final Judgment, we’d best not embarrass ourselves by putting ourselves in the Judge’s seat! Scriptures and Church I always thought were means of grace - divinely meant to deliver Christ’s judgment of “Not Guilty!” to each and every poor sinner in the world. No changes in the Greek text based on scholarly judgment will ever change that.

I’m not sure who threw the first low blow in the theological wars that have raged in our church body since the late 1960s. But I know I’m tired of the sort of “gotcha theology” Mr. Montgomery and his proteges have practiced in our Synod for many decades. I am sorry to say I have certainly been guilty of practicing it myself from time to time (especially in my reckless youth :-( but seeing it used on faithful friends, having been on the receiving end of “gotcha theology” myself, has made me more circumspect. Perhaps when we are better at judging ourselves sinners, at attending to the logs in our own eyes, maybe then we will race more eagerly to a Savior who forgives all, and then (and only then) I think we might be of some small help to our brothers and sisters struggling with little specks in their eyes.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Service Time</th>
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<th>Cantors</th>
<th>Instrumentalists/Vocalists</th>
<th>Organist</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 3rd 7th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Matins</td>
<td>Pastor Martin</td>
<td>Men’s Chorus</td>
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<td>July 10th 8th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
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<td>Beth Hallowell &amp; Eric Heidepriem</td>
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<td>July 17th 9th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
<td>8:30</td>
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<td>Laura Gillespie</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>DS w/Communion</td>
<td>Debbie Roseman &amp; Bridgette Hurley</td>
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<td>July 24th 10th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
<td>8:30</td>
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<td>July 31st 11th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
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Russell Wilcox, Music Director/Organist
Noël Hamm, Handbell Director/Organist

We are pleased to welcome back to OSLC one of our former vicars, The Rev. Dr. Chris Ahlman, who will be our guest preacher and teacher on Sunday, July 10th. Dr. Ahlman will conduct both services and teach the Adult Bible Class.

Pastor Martin will be in Milwaukee, WI participating in the LCMS Convention.
Education

Thank you to our Sunday School Staff 2015-2016
Karl Abbott, Vera Beers, Carolina Cooper, Maureen Costello, Marcella Cox, Dave Dickmander, Janet Dickmander, Shelley Dorman, LeAnn Hirt, Trevor Hirt, Bonnie Martin, Kerri Martinsen, Faith Orr, Rachel Reichert, Ron Reichert, Timothy Sheridan, Nuria Zierz

Summer Sunday School classes continue through July. Volunteers are needed to teach throughout the month.

If you can help - please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

The Psalter
Dr. Ridgeway is teaching on The Psalter in office 122. The 150 Psalms are studied one at a time (9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)

Pastor’s Class
Adult Bible Class with Pastor Martin will continue the study of Matthew.

Tuesday Mornings 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
This class meets with Pastor on Tuesdays in the Conference Room. Pastor provides an in-depth look at the upcoming lessons for the following Sunday.

Wednesday Evening Class
Will resume in the fall! Watch here for updates.

Please remember that the Sunday School mission funds collected from ALL Sunday School classes & VBS will be donated to the LCMS Missionaries Krista & Joel Young. The Young family is serving the church in Ethiopia.
Ancient Heritage for a New Generation
Capital Campaign

The campaign continues with faithful and generous support of the congregation.
Thank you for your sustaining gifts.

FINANCIAL REPORT *
January-May
Budget $185,710
Income $172,573
Expenses $185,499
Net $-12,926
*does not include rental income/expenses

Pastor Martin will be out of the office July 7th - 15th as he will be attending the LCMS Convention in Milwaukee, WI. Pastor Martin is serving as the Pastoral Delegate for Circuit 13-West. He is also serving on the Floor Committee for Reformation.

The Rev. Dr. Chris Ahlman will be conducting worship services and the Adult Bible Class on July 10th.

Pastor Martin will be on the KFUO program “The Strong Word” on Friday, July 29th, 12:00 noon. Tune in and listen to this entertaining and enlightening program on the study of Jude.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, having received 59.96 percent of the votes cast, is the president-elect of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for a third term, 2016-2019. The nomination process for the position of Synod president began last fall with the mailing of the nominations ballots to all congregations of the Synod. All nominations were required to be submitted by Feb. 9, 2016, or five months prior to the start of the Synod convention, when the ballots, received by an outside auditor, were tallied and delivered to the secretary of the Synod. The resulting candidates for the office of president were the three ordained ministers who received the highest number of votes in the nominations process and who consented to serve if elected. The three nominations for Synod President were Harrison, the Rev. Dr. David P.E. Maier and the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer.

The results of the ballot tallied and reported to the secretary of the Synod by Election-American are as follows:

- Harrison was voted president-elect with 3,507 votes (56.96 percent)
- Meyer received 2,257 votes (36.66 percent)
- Maier received 393 votes (6.38 percent)

[as printed blog.lcms.org/2016/Harrison-re-elected]
We remember in prayer …

Dr. Melanie Asbury, U.S.A.F., sister of Stephanie Farmer, Osun Air Base, Pyeongtaek, South Korea
Brandon Baden, U.S.A.F., nephew of Britt & Sandi Johnson, deployed to Jordan
Lt. Mark Baden, U. S. Navy, nephew of Mona & Tim Potter
Capt. Benjamin Brighton, U.S.M.C., grandson of Erika Swaim, stationed in Darwin, Australia
Will Driscoll, U.S.M.C. Boot Camp, Parris Island, SC
Lt. Joshua Gilreath, U.S.A.F., nephew of Mona & Tim Potter
Garrett Knutson, U.S. Army, son of Lori & Travis, stationed at Fort Campbell
Col. Sean LeRoy, U.S.A.F., cousin of Carolina Cooper, pilot deployed to Afghanistan
Capt. Andrew Markoff, U.S.M.C.
SSG Ken Martinsen, U.S. Army, 130th MEB, NC
SSG Brandon Radcliffe, U.S. Army, father of Allison Radcliffe
Sgt. Major David Rieger, U.S. Army
Alex Thompson, U.S.M.C., son of David and Jane Thompson, stationed in Okinawa
Chaplain Greg Todd, U.S. Army
Chaplain Richard Townes, U.S. Navy
Ken Woods, U.S. Army, brother of Tim Woods, stationed at Fort Hood, TX
Senior Chief Chris Yacur, U.S. Navy, husband of former member Erin Schmidt Yacur, stationed in GA

Congregational Care

OSLC Members:
Bill and Martha Autry, health concerns for Bill and for Martha as his caretaker
Mack Brown, recovering at home following spinal surgery
Cindy Fritz, continuing treatment for spinal issues
Matthew Fritz, struggling with medication issues
Dorothy Hader, in rehab center
Ken Hanck, Parkinson’s disease
Joe Hayes, recovering from surgery
Gene Kamprath, continuing health concerns
Charlie Knox, undergoing radiation therapy
Erika Swaim, fractured foot following car crash
Barb Wichmann, continuing treatment for recurrence of breast cancer

Timothy Sheridan, relocated to Fort Wayne, IN, to begin his studies at Concordia Theological Seminary.

Family of former OSLC member, Don Locke, mourning Don’s death following a diagnosis of aggressive lung cancer.

Family of long time OSLC member, Camilla Montgomery, mourning Camilla’s death at age 91.

Coups for Troops

Thanks for the donations! We have sent in 293,592 coupons! Keep them coming.
Ruth Costello will continue to coordinate our efforts to collect manufacturer’s coupons to be donated to military families. Coupons up to 3 months past expiration date ** can be used by military families.

A collection envelope is available on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Pass along the coupons you receive and don’t use to those who can put them to great use.

Can you help?
OSLC members Dan & Helen Emmons are in need of a camper/trailer home for month-long use during home construction. Please contact the Church Office if you can help and we can provide the direct contact information for the Emmons.

This newsletter is the monthly publication provided for the members of

Our Savior Lutheran Church
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Reverend Kevin Martin
Office       secretary@oslcraleigh.org
Maureen Costello

Music
Noël Hamm      noel2bach@yahoo.com
Organist/Handbell Director
Russell Wilcox music@oslcraleigh.org
Music Director/Organist
Dedication Service Scheduled for Building Independence Lake Wheeler

Lutheran Services Carolina (LSC) is excited to announce the anticipated opening of Building Independence Lake Wheeler - three homes that will serve nine low-income adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. To celebrate the completion of the project, LSC is hosting a dedication and open house scheduled for Sunday, August 21 at 4:00 p.m. The service will be held on the grounds of the homes located at 2610 Lake Wheeler Road in Raleigh and will feature special speakers and fellowship with the organizations, donors, and volunteers who made this project possible. A barbeque, sponsored by Thrivent Financial, will take place following the service.

Each energy efficient home includes three private bedrooms and bathrooms, and common kitchen, living, and dining space. LSC will operate the homes, which will include offering services that empower residents on the journey to independence. Residents will benefit from affordable monthly rents, access to public transportation and shopping, life skills coaching, opportunities for paid jobs, and vocational training, and continuous encouragement from LSC staff.

The project was initiated as a collaboration between The Serving Cup, Habitat for Humanity of Wake County, and LSC. Other Building Independence partners include the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, Wake County Lutheran congregations, Thrivent Financial, Wheat Ridge Ministries, and many other generous individuals and organizations. For more information about the August 21 service, please contact Ellen Watts, LSC donor relations specialist, at 704-603-1696 or ewatts@LSCarolinas.net.

Congratulations to Liz and Tim Shank on the birth of Timothy James Shank, III on June 20th.

T.J. will be baptized on Sunday, July 24th.

Ethan Langley 7/2
Wayne Nickola 7/7
Dominick Colon-Good 7/8
Charli Morris 7/11
Rich Santeramo 7/11
Charlotte Goto 7/12
Gene Thompson 7/14
Char Spencer 7/16
Jackie Stephens 7/16
Liz Shank 7/17
Cat Slade 7/17
Lyn Aubrecht 7/21
Martha Werner 7/21
Bill Autry 7/24
Lorna Schroeder 7/24
Chris Touchberry 7/25
Nathaniel Touchberry 7/25
Laura Powers 7/25
Stephanie Farmer 7/27
Laura Ann Goodwin 7/28
Laura Gillespie 7/28
Mark your calendars ... 

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**  
Bible Study will NOT meet on 7/12th.

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**Elders Meeting**
There will **not** be a July Elders meeting.  
The next meeting will be **Tuesday, August 2nd, 5:30 p.m.**

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**Chrismon Session**  
Tuesday, July 12th  
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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**Game Night**  
Friday, July 22nd  
6:00 p.m.

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**Vacation Bible School is coming ...**

**Genesis**

Sunday, August 7th  
**Genesis 1:2-3** “Creation”

Sunday, August 14th  
**Genesis 2:4-24** “Adam and Eve”

Sunday, August 21st  
**Genesis 3:1-13** “The Fall”

Sunday, August 28th  
**Genesis 3:14-24** “The Promise”

We will need volunteers for teaching, crafts and snacks. Plan to attend a planning meeting for all interested in helping - on **Saturday, July 16th, 10:30 a.m.**

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**Free Seminar: July 24 and July 25 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**  
Resurrection Lutheran Church, 100 W. Lochmere Drive, Cary

**Sunday, July 24: Defining Devotion - What is the Devotional Life?** In this session participants will explore a different understanding of the devotional life. By reconsidering what it means to “have a devotion,” they will see God’s work in their lives differently and rediscover the power and beauty of a devotional life.

**Monday, July 25: Practicing Devotion - Introduction to Sacred Reading** Using different portions of Scripture participants will be taken through a practice of sacred reading, deepening their ability to meditate upon God’s Word in a way that leads to a life of prayer.

The presenter is the Rev. Dr. David Schmitt. Dr. Schmitt holds the Gregg H. Benidt Memorial Endowed Chair in Homiletics and Literature at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.
The LWML EVENING BIBLE STUDY and LWML LUNCH BUNCH will not meet during the summer. Plan to join us next September and bring a friend!

MITE COLLECTION - SUNDAY, JULY 24
Over the years the Lutheran Ladies Aid societies used a box to gather funds in support of local and synod ministries. Under the original 1928 Lutheran Women's Missionary Endeavor organizational plan, each woman in every congregation would receive a Mite Box if she participated in the Ladies Aid. Receipts from the 92 Ladies Aid societies totaled $6,651.31 in 1930.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, formally recognized by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in 1942, required by the newly adopted constitution and bylaws, that 25% of all missionary contributions be given to the national organization, shared from the districts.

At the 1953 convention, delegates reaffirmed the policy of raising funds only through voluntary offerings. The first Mite Box design had space for districts to imprint local messages. In publications and speeches, Leaguers were reminded not to just tuck their Mite Box away out of sight and then on the day of the meeting take out a dollar bill, put it in an envelope and hand it to the secretary. Among the suggestions offered were:

- Put your pennies in the box at the end of the 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. For the 2015-2017 biennium the mite goal is $2,000,000.00.

Carolinas District Retreat
August 19-21, 2016
Camp Linn Haven
Linville, North Carolina

Our Catawba Valley Zone will be our hosts at the annual district retreat. The theme is “Refresh Rethink Relationships … a Proverbs study.” Pastor Anton Lagoutine of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Conover, NC will be our dean for the weekend. Our Gifts from the Heart will be a monetary donation for the materials for The Crossnore School students who are brought to Camp Linn Haven each summer for a Vacation Bible School.

Experience … mountain fresh air … Bible study … rest and relaxation … great food … fun … fellowship … singing … LWML items to purchase … free time!

Check in begins at 3 p.m. Friday with dinner at 6 p.m. Registration is $5.00 for materials and a $95.00 fee for your lodging and all meals through Sunday lunch. Don’t forget to register by August 5th so that the ladies of the Catawba Valley Zone will know how many will be attending. If you have any questions, please talk to Debbie Roseman.

For more information and registration forms, please see the April 2016 edition of the Carolinas Cross Connection located on the console beneath the LWML bulletin board.

Carolinas District Convention
September 16 & 17, 2016
Grace Lutheran Church
Summerville, South Carolina

The theme for this convention is “May God Embrace Us with His Grace.” This hymn (LW 288) was written by Martin Luther and will help us look forward to the 500th year anniversary of the Reformation.

Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Brent Smith who is now working in our Southeastern District office. Our representative from national LWML will be Nancy Bogenhagan, Vice President of Communication.

The servant event on Friday from 2-5 p.m. will take place as the attendees arrive. We will be making surgery dolls that are used in area hospitals. Surgeons use them to explain to children, and others who need it, where they will be cut to help ease their minds about their surgeries. They will be available in many stages so you can jump in wherever you’re most comfortable. Gifts from the Heart will go to the Medical University of South Carolina - Institute of Psychiatry and the MUSC Children’s Hospital. Lists of requested items can be found in the April edition of the Carolinas Cross Connection.

If you have any questions, please talk to Debbie Roseman. Room sharing and carpooling can be arranged.

LWML ONGOING COLLECTIONS
Travel size toiletries
Used eyeglasses

Don’t forget to collect travel size toiletries as you vacation. The toiletries are given to the Matthew Ministry at Jordan Lutheran Church. Teams from Jordan hand out these items to the homeless in downtown Raleigh twice a month on Saturdays.

You will find collection baskets for these items on the console beneath the LWML bulletin board.
Opportunities in Uganda - Women of the Pearl and Seminary Completion

Grant amount: $100,000  To assist in the completion of the final phase of the seminary and to continue the work of the Women of the Pearl to teach and put resources in the hands of the woman in ministry.

Mission Grant Prayer

Heavenly Father, bless the LCMU’s 100 congregations and their few pastors. Be with those new students who can now afford to begin their calling to the ministry. May those in countries close by also be able to reap dividends for the Kingdom of Heaven. Be with the WOTP as they focus on training women in the ministry so they can identify with the work of the church. With Your help Lord, the WOTP will be able to have one woman from each congregation attend a conference so they can be encouraged in their faith, have a deeper relationship with You, and obtain new resources. In Your Son’s name, we pray. Amen.

Lutheran Women’s Missionary League

www.lwml.org • 1-800-252-5965

The Lutheran Church Mission in Uganda (LCMU) hosts 100 plus congregations with less than 20 ordained pastors. This LWML Mission Grant will go toward completion of the seminary in Uganda and to continue the work of the Women of the Pearl (WOTP) to teach and put resources in the hands of women and men. The WOTP’s mission is to provide education in literacy, nutrition, sanitation, business ownership, and agriculture to women in Uganda so they may serve God, support pastors, congregations, and communities through the teachings of Scripture. The seminary allows pastors and lay leaders the opportunity to study closer to home.