



Dear Jesus on this Christmas day please cleanse our hearts, so that we may become more worthy of receiving you. Help us to follow your example and help us to make this Christmas special to all those who are not as fortunate as we are.

Dear Father,

We are thankful for Your Son, Jesus, whose birth we celebrate. Jesus, who came to earth with one purpose, to be our Savior. As we begin the preparations, hustle and bustle of the season, may we "all-ways" be focused on Jesus.

Help us to push away anything that entangles our joy and replace it with peace and the firm knowledge of our true gift, Jesus.

Help us to give the gift of love and hospitality to everyone we meet and remind us that the best gift has already been given, Jesus.

Help us to remember those who are in need and give us opportunity and desire to give as you have given; to be more like Jesus.

It is You we celebrate, Jesus. We thank You. We praise You. We love You.

Jesus.

Amen



LWML Releases New Mite Boxes

ST. LOUIS, November 7, 2016—The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) announced the release of a new Mite Box design. The new box was created by graphic designer Amy

Gill from Phoenix, Arizona. The updated Mite Box design includes the 75th Anniversary logo, also designed by Amy Gill, along with an explanation of what LWML does and what offerings into a Mite Box will do.

President Patti Ross quoted from the final line of explanation on the Mite Box. She said, “As you pray and put your money into this box, you give more than silver and gold; together we share the riches of Christ with the nations!”



SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP GRANT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE!!!

Have you ever dreamed of going on a Mission Trip? The AD LWML has approved funds to be used to support short-term mission trips. Take some time and review the instruction form and application that are available at www.ADLWML.org for further information



Grant Highlight of the Month

**Sharing God's Word through Service;
The Chapel School; Bronxville, NY**

\$3,000

“Sharing God’s Word Through Service” is an initiative to expand the Service Learning Program at The Chapel School, which engages preschool through grade 8 students in community service in order to spread our mission to know, live, and share the love of Christ. This program includes organizing a “Make a Difference Day,” where more than 75 people joined hands and hearts to make book bags for inner-city children, write letters to soldiers, and make place mats for a local soup kitchen, participating in “Midnight Runs,” a school-wide effort of donating items, assembling and distributing bags of food to more than 300 homeless, and sharing God’s love while volunteering at a local soup kitchen. This grant will help extend our outreach and enable us to further spread God’s word and love to the community by paying for program materials, supplies, and transportation fees.

ATLANTIC DISTRICT LWML MISSION GRANTS 2016-2018

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|-----|--|---------|-------------|
| 1. | From Mourning Glory to Morning Glory: Rescuing Women with the Gospel;
Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church; Bronx, NY | \$4,000 | PAID |
| 2. | VBS for Deaf Children;
Lutheran Friends of the Deaf; Mill Neck, NY | \$4,500 | |
| 3. | Risen Christ Women Sewing Ministry;
The Lutheran Church of the Risen Christ; Brooklyn, NY | \$1,500 | |
| 4. | Grace Lutheran Pantry;
Grace Lutheran Church, Queens Village, NY | \$5,000 | |
| 5. | Reaching our Hispanic Neighbors;
Lutheran Church of St. John the Evangelist; Brooklyn, NY | \$630 | |
| 6. | Sharing God's Word through Service;
The Chapel School; Bronxville, NY | \$3,000 | |
| 7. | Mission Outreach to Street Children in New Amsterdam, Guyana;
St. Matthews' Lutheran Church; Brooklyn, NY | \$3,000 | |
| 8. | Long Island Deaf Missions;
Lutheran Friends of the Deaf; Mill Neck, NY | \$5,000 | |
| 9. | Trinity Food Pantry;
Trinity Lutheran Church; Islip, NY | \$4,500 | |
| 10. | Operation Barnabas for Comfort Dog Congregations;
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod; St. Louis MO | \$2,000 | |
| 11. | Concordia Seminary Food Bank;
St. Louis, MO | \$5,000 | |
| 12. | Free Medical Check-up Camps & Eye Screening Camps in Rural parts of India;
Lutheran Hour Ministries; St. Louis, MO | \$5,000 | |
| 13. | La Vida Nica;
The Life Lutheran Church; Westbury, NY | \$2,770 | |



**MISSION GRANT #1 IS FUNDED!!!
MAKE SURE YOU COLOR A PETAL ON A FLOWER!**

This picture can be used to track the receipt of mites for the 2016-2018 biennium. For each \$4,250 collected, a section of the butterfly's thermometer body can be colored in. There are 13 petals on the three flowers representing one of the mission grants. As each mission grant obligation is fulfilled, another petal can be colored. Enjoy!.



Congratulations!
2016 Photo Contest Winner
Deborah Graybosch

A story based on Matthew 14:22-31-enjoy!

Mist settled on the water as gentle waves lapped along the side of the boat. Events of the day kept rattling in Peter's head. News of John's beheading was too much to bear. Then feeding more than 5,000 people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish and having 12 baskets of food left over; how could this be?

Was this Jesus, this man who ate, drank, walked, spoke with us; could he truly be the Son of God?

They saw people healed. They saw dead people brought back to life. They drank the water that was turned into wine, and yet they questioned.

Peter picked up the oars and began to gently row towards shore. As he lifted his head, he saw something in the mist, a figure walking on the water.

Blinking his eyes, Peter looked more intently as the form of a man began to materialize. His heart raced and he got the attention of the others in the boat. "Wake up! Look over there! There's someone coming toward us!"

The boat began to rock as everyone rolled over one another to get a better view of the apparition in the mist. Voices grew as did the tension. Someone yelled, "It's a ghost!"

Jesus immediately said to them, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

This is impossible! How could a man walk on water? Why wasn't he sinking?

Peter couldn't help himself as he blurted out, "Lord, if it's You tell me to come to You on the water."

Jesus' reply was simple. He said, "Come."

Peter's heart continued to race. He carefully stood in the boat. Prepared to go swimming Peter moved toward the stern, lifted the hem of his garment and put his right leg over the side.

Timidly Peter put his foot onto the water. The coolness felt good on the bottom of Peter's foot. His ankle remained dry. Peter put more of his body weight onto his right leg, brought his left leg over the side and then stood.

Peter didn't sink. Peter was standing on the lake.

Boldly Peter began to walk towards Jesus. He was amazed that he wasn't sinking. Peter couldn't fathom this miracle even though it was happening to him!

A gentle breeze began to blow. Waves began to form. Peter's attention left his Savior and focused on the change in the weather. Peter began to sink. Fear ripped into Peter's heart forcing him to shout, "Lord, save me!"

Before Jesus even said a word, He stretched out His hand and caught Peter in His arms.

As the Son of God embraced His disciple He said, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Come. This small, four letter word is what Jesus says to each of us every day, in every situation, in every joy, pain, success, or failure. Jesus says, "Come."

I pray that you hear His voice, follow His directive, and have faith to go to Him when He calls.

Let's go for a walk!

Who's up for a challenge? We are planning to arrange an AD LWML 5K walk-a-thon. Zones will be able to walk within their own community or join with other zones for greater fellowship.

Let's plan on doing it this Spring of 2017.

Please contact Linda Guterres with your willingness to participate.



We can all use a laugh!

