

March 2015

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TIDINGS

Inside this issue:

<i>Gleanings from Sylvia</i>	2
<i>Pastoral Counselor</i>	3
<i>Mission Grants</i>	4
<i>Mite Slacker</i>	5
<i>Servant Resources</i>	6
<i>Christian Life</i>	7
<i>Rays of Sonshine</i>	7, 10
<i>Scholarship</i>	8
<i>2017 Convention Update</i>	9
<i>Teens & YWR News</i>	10-11
<i>Addresses</i>	12



Sow • Nourish • Reap

LWML Convention - Des Moines, Iowa
June 25-28, 2015

Register Early and \$ave
February 1 - March 14

Easily register online here:
lwml.org/convention

More hotels have been added to those listed in *The Quarterly*:

Doubletree Airport – 515-285-7777

Hampton Inn Airport – 515-287-7300

Holiday Inn Express at Drake University – 515-255-4000

Ramada Airport – 515-287-6464

Shuttle service from these hotels to the convention center will be provided by LWML/Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Go to LWML.org for more information on reserving a room.

Gleanings From Sylvia



Luke 10:2 and He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest."

One Step at a Time—The Time is Now

Connected by the Power was the theme for our 2015 LWML-RMD Board of Directors Meeting based on Romans 15:13 *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* LWML RMD Executive Committee chose this theme to help nurture and mentor our RMD Zone Presidents as they step out in faith to serve their Lord through their LWML RMD zones.

As baptized children of God we are blessed by the power of the Holy Spirit with special gifts we can use to serve our Lord and others in His harvest fields. Connected to God through the power of His Holy Spirit, we can step out boldly in faith to further God's Kingdom because God has and will provide for us to do His work. With the mentoring on all the LWML levels (from national to society), through people and resources – God prepares us so we can share His plan of salvation "wherever and whenever His has need of us." Through prayer, Bible study, the Means of Grace, and support of our LWML brothers and sisters in Christ, we can be confident that **the time is now** to

take that first step in faith to do and achieve things we've never done before. This can be very exciting and also very nerve-racking, but God assures us that He prepares us to do His work (*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Eph 2:10 NIV*) and through Him we can accomplish His good works. (*I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Phil 4:13 NIV*). **The Time is Now** to prayerfully take that step - the LWML RMD still needs a young women to serve on the LWML RMD Committee on Young Women, women to serve on the Committee on Teens, and an LWML RMD Heart to Heart Sister District Trainer to attend training for this position at the 2015 convention in Des Moines, IA. Could that "someone" be you? **The Time is Now** to take that bold step of faith - contact me at president@lwmlrmd.org.

Blessings,
Sylvia

Remember to send your mites each month to our RMD Treasurer. Her address is:

LWML RMD
Beth Nagy, Treasurer
PO Box 270144
Louisville, CO 80027



Mites for this national
biennium should be
sent to
Beth Nagy by
March 15, 2015

You are Dust

Pr. Jonathan Schultz
Senior Pastoral Counselor

For you are dust, and to dust you shall return. (Gen 3:19) With those words, Adam learned that he would die. But that was not God's intent for His good creation.

God formed Adam from the dust of the earth, and gave him the task of tending the garden. Seeing his need, God created a helper for Adam, created from a rib taken from his side.

God gave Adam and Eve every plant for food, save one – the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. That tree was forbidden; God had explicitly said, “for in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die.” (Gen 2:17)

But the temptation was far too great, and when they heard the serpent's crafty language – “You won't die... your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Gen 3:5) – Eve ate, and she gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he ate. With their disobedience, sin entered the world.

With sin comes death. Adam would soon learn the consequence of his actions. “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Thus, Adam learned that the Serpent had deceived them; that although they would not immediately die, death had now entered the world through Adam's sin.

Just over a week ago, we celebrated Ash Wednesday. The name of that day goes back to the Middle Ages, when Christians sorry for their sins came to church at the beginning of Lent, barefoot and clad in rough cloth. After the prayers, ashes made from palms, whose fronds had been saved for almost a year from the previous Palm Sunday, were tossed into the air or sprinkled on the head.

In many of our churches, we begin this penitential season with the Imposition of Ashes. Like in days of old, the palm fronds from the previous Palm Sunday were saved and burned, and the ashes stored for the following year's Ash Wednesday observance. Then, during the service, the ashes, oftentimes mixed with a few drops of olive oil, are placed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross. These ashes serve as symbol of our own mortality and sin.

They remind us that because we sin, we – like Adam – will die, and in dying we return to the dust of the earth. With the ashes we confess what we already know about ourselves, wearing the symbol of our sins upon our brow.

Thus marked upon our foreheads what we already know in our hearts – that we are sinners in need of forgiveness – we humbly turn with penitent hearts to the One who came to save us from our sins.

St. Paul writes, “*therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all people, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For as by one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*” (Romans 5:19)

The ashes mark our sin, but even more so, they mark our salvation. They remind us that because Christ has died for us, our sins are forgiven, and we receive the promised blessings of eternal life. With a cross made of ashes, we confess that our sins are forgiven through Jesus.



Mission Grant Recipients for the 2014–2016 Biennium

Judy Delve
VP Gospel Outreach

	<u>Granted</u>	<u>Paid</u>
Kingdom Kids	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder, CO	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,000
Orphan Grain Train Collection Center—CO West	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
Rocky Mountain District – Debt Assistance	\$ 7,500	\$ 0
Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, Food and Clothing Co-op	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,500
Hispanic Ministry Northeast Colorado	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Roadrunner for Christ, Inc.	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
Ysleta—Mariachi San Pablo	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,000
Revitalizing the Mission at Navajo, New Mexico	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,500
Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,000
Trinity/HOPE—Haiti	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Project: Pastoral Education, West Africa	\$ 6,000	\$ 0
Mission Central, near Mapleton, Iowa	<u>\$ 5,500</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
	\$78,500	\$ 23,500

Mission Grant Update – Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne Food & Clothing Co-op

What do ramen noodles, baby wipes and a suit jacket have in common? All of these things – and more! – have been provided to the Seminary community in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, through the Concordia Theological Seminary's Food and Clothing Co-op. Some families may have more needs than others, but many hundreds of lives have been touched by this much needed service to a community unique to our seminaries. Food to fill the pantry, clothing for growing children and men about to start their new Vicarages and Calls, necessities for babies – these are just a sample of what is provided to those who are preparing for service in our midst.

As each seminarian prepares to serve the Lord “wherever and whenever He has need of us,” our mites and gifts help provide him and his family with essential needs. Many, many pastors (and their wives) can tell stories of how support from the LWML (from societies, districts, mite-funded food banks, etc.) has touched their lives in times of need.

Thank you to our sisters in the RMD who are providing their mites and their prayers to provide ways for families to Serve the Lord with Gladness. This mission grant of \$7,500 has been only partially funded, so please keep the families that are served by the Ft. Wayne Seminary Food and Clothing Co-op in your prayers that their needs may be met by the Great Provider, just as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has provided for all of our spiritual needs through His death and resurrection.



Confessions of a Mite Box Slacker

Carol von Soosten,
Past RMD President

Don't you just love LWML?

I'm sure all of us have our own story about how we were introduced to LWML, what got us hooked, and what benefits we've experienced. My story certainly had its beginnings as a Young Woman Representative for the Rocky Mountain District and carried me through a recent term as the district's President. In between was a lot of personal growth, spiritual development, and increased mission awareness.

If you've come to know and love LWML, you recognize that the mite box is a major component in supporting mission and ministry around the world. Those mite box offerings have funded tens of millions of dollars in mission grants since LWML started back in 1942 and it continues to be a focal point in raising women's mission consciousness.

So why am I making a public confession saying I'm a "Mite Box Slacker"? It's not because I don't admire the LWML with its inclusive mission statement to affirm each woman of the LC-MS and it's not because I don't fully support the current Primary Targets of Nurturing Faith in Christ, Making Our Mission Meaningful, and Sharing Encouragement.

In the past when my monthly LWML Bible study rolled around, I'd grab up my Bible, study book, a few dollars for our local group's offering, and then I'd go on a hunt for money for mites. Other ladies would bring their mite boxes to the gathering and upend their mite box into our large mite box or the zip lock bag we were using for collecting mites.

I'd hear that rush of coins - the "plink", "clink", "clunk" as they bounced together in support of missions and it triggered this welling up of guilt inside me. Somehow in my mind, my quickly gathered coins and purple Five Dollar bills didn't measure up against the intentionally gathered and accumulated coins in those mite boxes.

After long conversations with God, I realized my status as a recovering perfectionist was in jeopardy. I was in relapse!

The end result was about the same in total donations to LWML, but since I didn't do it bit by bit, day by day, I labeled myself a slacker. I was so focused on the "perfect way" of giving mites (giving a little each day while saying a prayer for the national and district mission grant recipients) that I had lost the joy of supporting and serving our Lord.

So back to my confession...

What's a faithful LWML supporter to do when her mite box is dusty and empty? Thankfully God's forgiveness covered that worry and led me to embracing the "Joyful Response" program available to LWML through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. What a blessing!

Everyone has to find the tools that work best for them. For me, having the freedom to pray for mission grant recipients anytime, any day, and not carrying the expectation of tying it to my mite donation was liberating. Donating a set amount to be withdrawn from my checking account allowed me a measure of peace knowing I had taken care of my financial responsibilities without the concern of missing the designated monthly collection day or time.

If by chance my confession resonates with you and you "resemble" this story, perhaps the automatic withdrawal is a tool you might consider using. If instead, you prefer your own way of gathering mites, that's perfectly fine.

The final, take away thought for this article is: As we begin a new fiscal biennium for national LWML and complete our biennium in our district, it is an opportunity to recommit to our mite-giving. I'd encourage each of you to find what works for you and embrace it. Let's serve our Lord together joyfully, removing barriers in whatever form they take so that we do His work in His way and follow His will.

Soli Deo Gloria!



The Lord is my Shepherd

*Darlene Markle,
VP Servant Resources*

Descending a narrow mountain road in White River National Forest this past winter, my husband and two young grandsons met up with a truck slowly driving up the mountain. The driver waved as he passed us. To our surprise we spotted a flock of sheep trotting behind that truck. We immediately pulled over to allow the sheep plenty of room to continue. All of a sudden the sheep came to an abrupt halt! They looked up at us as if to say, who are you and where did our shepherd go? My grandsons could not stop laughing. All of us wondered what the sheep would do! Scripture came to my mind. "My sheep know my name." We waited and the sheep waited. We waited some more and then we heard something. It was a horn beeping! Their shepherd beeped the horn! It worked. Those sheep headed toward the sound of that horn! We waved and giggled as they trotted by. What a lesson for us to witness! Sheep looking for their shepherd! Just look at the pictures we took!



In his book, *Jesus is Better Than You Imagined*, Jonathon Merritt writes, "God did not create sheep to be dumb, but he did create them defense-

less. The only defense mechanism God gave sheep is to stay within a flock under the watchful eye of a shepherd."

As we approach Easter let us remember the following scriptures John 10:27 & 28. "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." Also Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd."

Be sure to familiarize yourself with all the wonderful programs and sites LWML has. Start by clicking on www.lwml.org then click on "Resources." At the top of this page click on, "THE WORD." It will give you some ideas for which Bible Studies you can use at your next meeting. In fact, if you click on "Program Helps" and then "Devotions," you can read a wonderful devotion titled, "The Perfect Lamb." At the bottom of the page you will see, "Stay in Touch." Click on that and read what is happening. Sign up for the daily prayers too! The *Quarterly* has Bible Studies in it and "PROGRAM HELPS" has creative crafts, sketches and drama as well as devotions.

At the top of the same page you can click on, "Service." A pop-up will appear and then click on, "Getting Involved." This is perfect for your society! Also click on "Group Resources." I love the acronym, H.O.P.E. This site can strengthen your society. We can all use this.

I can't help but get excited about all the information we have with just a click! Begin to explore all that LWML has prepared for you!

Have a joyous Easter and may God use you well each and everyday!

Christian Resources for Lent

Colleen Spahr
VP Christian Life

There is a new resource on www.lwmlrmd.org under “Resources” and then “Devotions”—“The Lamb of God: A Lenten Meditation.” Click on PDF to open and print the devotion. On the Christian Life webpage there is a link to the Bible study, “Life-Changing Repentance and Forgiveness.” Click on the title to open and print it for your use. There is also a list of Lent resources from the district files. If you would like to receive any of these, I will have to scan and email them to you.

New Way to Access Free Christian Resources from LWML

Go to www.lwml.org On the home page, click on “The Word” tab near the top. Under that, click on “Program Helps.” You should see access to the new Bible studies and devotions on the right side of that web page under the title of “New 2015 Program Helps.”



Our Mites Came to See Us

Moses, the Comfort Dog (you remember your Summer *Quarterly* – Care and Compassion for All of God’s People) came with his handler, Kim Dibbern and her husband from Cairo, Nebraska to Ascension Lutheran Church in Littleton, CO. Sixty people enjoyed Moses and his story about how he became a Comfort Dog, and that it takes a year of training for them and their handlers. Moses has comforted people in many places; Pilger, Nebraska and Joplin, Missouri after devastating tornadoes, Arapahoe High School – after a school shooting, at fires, where suicides have happened, and of course nursing homes. As you read in the *Quarterly* the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry is a group of specially trained Golden Retrievers that are placed in our LCMS churches, schools, universities, and ministries. We learned that each of these specially trained dogs have Biblical names.

The truth is that Moses and each of the dogs in this ministry are just instruments to bring His mercy, compassion, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to individuals everywhere in every circumstance. Quite simply, the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry is about people and what we are called to do as Christians. The Training K-9 Comfort Dogs for LCMS Chaplains is one of our National LWML Mission grants for \$30,000, which has been paid by our Mites.

It is easy to see what a gift from God these K-9 Comfort Dogs are – we at Ascension are grateful Moses came to see us -- “Our Mites in Action”.



News and Pics from Our Scholarship Students

Jeanne Ostermann,
Scholarship Chairman

Grace Hollenbeck from University Hills, Denver is at Concordia, Seward studying to become a teacher. She sent pictures of Concordia University, NE's annual Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival. "I drew two chalk art pieces, one at St. John Lutheran School and one at Seward Elementary. The chalk art pieces were "banners" to welcome Nick Bruel (author/illustrator of *Bad Kitty* series) and Brian Lies (author/illustrator of *Bats at the Beach* series), both of whom gave presentations for the kids at the respective schools. The chalk art was meant not only to welcome the two best-selling authors but also for the kids to enjoy through the week leading up to the festival on Concordia's campus on Friday. You can see more about the event on the "Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival" page on Facebook.



Karina Schlecht is posing with the staff from "Breakthrough Twin Cities" where she taught last summer. "Breakthrough" is a nonprofit organization preparing under-resourced students for college success and cultivates the next generation of educators. Karina is a student at Concordia- St. Paul where she is majoring in education. Her home congregation is Immanuel, Loveland, Colorado. Karina, on the left, is posing with her school mascot at Homecoming last year!



Julie Friedrichs a freshman at Concordia Nebraska from Peace, Arvada, Colorado wrote "Thank you so much for choosing me to receive scholarship money. I am glad that I can put it towards my hope of becoming a DCE!"

Elizabeth Pflieger a Freshman at Concordia-Portland from Immanuel, Albuquerque writes "I am grateful to you for your support and prayers as I venture out to college following God's calling. I am also grateful to the Lord for His many blessings. Thank you for this scholarship as I will *serve the Lord with gladness!*"

Taylor Reed a Junior at Concordia Wisconsin from Trinity, Greeley, Colorado writes, "I wanted to take a moment to let you know how incredibly grateful I am for receiving this scholarship. It is such an honor and means a lot to me. Now I do not have to stress about paying for books! Your gift is greatly appreciated!"

Ben Vanderhyde a Junior at Concordia Wisconsin from University Hills, Denver handwrote a whole page of thanks; here is an excerpt: "It is a tremendous blessing to be supported financially by the church in which I hope to become a professional! Truth be told, it can be a little stressful around the time when I have to accept my student loan and pay my bill. It is easy to sometimes wonder if I am doing the right thing, going to college for church work. Receiving outside aid, from people like you, always serves as a great reminder, however, that God will provide no matter what! Your support is a reminder that God is always taking care of us and giving us what we need. Our greatest need has already been taken care of by Christ through his death and resurrection. Now as I look forward to attending Seminary it is tempting to continue to worry about money. Thank you for being a part of my education and for encouraging me with your gift!"

Ladies please remember to keep all eleven of our scholarship recipients in your prayers this semester that the Lord would bless and keep them as they study to do His work and His will. And please encourage any student that you know in the Rocky Mountain District planning to go into full time church work in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, to apply for a scholarship using the forms on our LWMLRMD website. **Deadline is May 1st 2015!**

2017 LWML Convention SLC Update

February 2015

How I wish each of you could have been with me in St. Louis at the LWML Board of Directors' meeting recently. The Board of Directors unanimously approved adding the Montana District to the SLC Host Committee. I had the opportunity to meet several times with the four SLC Host Committee District Presidents: Chris Wallace, Wyoming; Linda Larson, Utah-Idaho; Danyne Six, Wyoming; and Sylvia Bean, Rocky Mountain. This team has hit the road running with ideas and enthusiasm!

Volunteers – The Host Committee consists of five Coordinators, 18 Chairmen, and 47 Directors. The tasks for each group are all outlined and easy to follow and understand. Most of the Coordinator and Chairman positions have been appointed. However, we are in need of more willing workers to complete the Volunteer Application form and Spiritual Gifts form. Even though the form heading says, “Coordinator and Chairman,” please fill it out and send to me. If you wonder what the Director tasks are, please contact your District President for a copy of the Host Committee Job Responsibilities.

Host Committee Fund – The fundraising is gaining momentum. The balance in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund account as of February 5, 2015, is \$8,054.95. Make checks payable to: **2017 SLC Convention SLC and mail to: Lois Anderson, 467 Rose St. N., Twin Falls, ID 83301.** Thanks be to God for all your creative ways to support the Host Committee.

Recycling - Recycling ink cartridges continues with great results, especially with Wyoming bringing in \$400+! Share your successful recycling story! Plastic bottle recycling across the border in Oregon has brought in \$40+ with more to come!

Society Contributions/Events – Rocky Mountain has held various fundraisers and contributed \$2,273 – thank you! Other areas are holding quilt sales and other events. Please share your story with me and I'll pass on the news in the next update.

Thrivent Choice Dollars® - The Wyoming District set up an account with Thrivent to receive Choice Dollars and now Utah-Idaho District has followed suit.

Thanks to all those who are heading up the fundraising efforts – keep up the good work! Please contact me if you have any questions or ideas that will help with our Host Committee plans. Continue to pray for God's guidance in all the planning and decisions being made – we give Him all the glory!

Blessings to you!

Lois

Lois Anderson, Host Committee Chair
2017 LWML Convention SLC

2017 Salt Lake City Host Committee

Presidents: Sylvia Bean, Rocky Mountain,
Chris Wallace, Montana;
Linda Larson, Utah-Idaho;
Danyne Six, Wyoming
Lois Anderson Convention Chair.



Dearest Ladies of the LWML Rocky Mountain District!

We have chosen and are excited about the Young Women Reps for the District convention this June in Des Moines, IA! Here is a little bit about each so you can “get to know them.”

Leah Bauder is a 23 year old Lutheran preschool teacher who lives in and attends Immanuel Lutheran Church in Clovis, NM. In addition to teaching preschool and working as a retail associate, Leah spends time in her garden, is an avid reader, spends time with her energetic dogs, and sings. She got her feet wet at the 2014 district convention as the Pecos Zone YWR, and is looking forward to attending the national convention as one of the Rocky Mountain District's YWRs this summer.

Jennifer Weber, from the South Central Zone, is 35 years old and was born in Fort Ord, CA and raised all over the world. She and her husband, Kyle Weber, are members of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Aurora, CO. She has 2 Children, has been a Stay at Home Mom for 8 years, and has recently gotten back into the work-force. Before she was a Wife and Mommy, she served in the U.S. Army as an MP for 5 years. This is her First year attending an LWML Convention, and she is very excited to be chosen to do so.

We also chose 2 alternates, so we are very well covered!

Patricia Fulton, is a music teacher in Yuma, CO and is part of the Northeastern Zone. She attended the district convention last year in Denver and enjoys LWML.

Brittnie Clark, is a stay at home mom of a five month old baby! Her family attends Trinity Lutheran church in Alamogordo, NM and she is part of the Rio Grande Zone. She too, like Patricia and Leah attended the District Convention last summer in Denver. She too is very dedicated to LWML.

Please pray for all of these ladies that they will be used as beautiful sets of hands in God's mighty mission work, whether in Iowa this summer, or in and near their home congregations! Encourage them and be encouraged by them!

Thank you sisters (and brothers), may God richly bless you today and evermore!

Christy Kunze

LWML-RMD Committee on Young Women Chairman

Cookie Cans for College

Grace Fellowship in Gypsum, CO put goodies and small items to fill a coffee can as they sent a note of love to their Grace Fellowship students! What a fun way to tell them we care; that God is with them each; and that we continue to pray for them. Postage for each can is about \$6.00. It was a fun mission project for our newly formed LWML society.





IT's Not your Grandma's Guild

"LWML is not just your grandma's guild." **LWML's PRIME DIRECTIVE** is from our Leader, **JESUS CHRIST**, who commissioned us to spread the Gospel to all nations. LWML women of all ages have been motivated by their love for Jesus Christ to do amazing things for more than 73 years.

LWML women have provided the people of their local congregations with tons of cookies and pies, casseroles and salads, LWML Jell-O runs freely through all of our veins. LWML women have done crafts and sewn mountains of clothing and quilted truckloads of quilts and blankets for the needy people of our missions. They plan potlucks, fund raisers, conventions and rallies, they visit the sick and serve at weddings and funerals and a multitude of other acts. They share the word of God through devotional materials and pray for each other and for others.

After all of this local giving and serving, LWML ladies have raised over 100 million dollars to support our missionaries who spread the Gospel of Salvation. The sheer capital achievement of this organization would make the CEO of any major company envious! With God anything is possible!



**2014 Rocky Mountain
District Convention
Teen and Young Women Reps**



School Supplies for Orphan Grain Train



District Officers Serving the Lord With Gladness for the 2014-2016 Biennium

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RMD 2015 Convention Update

At the February Board of Directors the district banner was chosen for president Sylvia Bean to carry during the 2015 LWML convention in Des Moines. Yvonne Steeby and Nora Sotak from the Rio Grande Zone have offered to construct the banner. Thank you for your service!



the Sower

Prayers of

A doration

Confession

Thanks

Supplication

Janet Krogh, Mission Services Committee Chair, will now be in charge of receiving prayer requests from the RMD.

Please contact her at prayers@lwmlrmd.org