

Tidings

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Missionary League Rocky Mountain District

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QR code to direct you to
the LWML RMD website
or lwmlrmd.org

 facebook.com/LWML.RMD



Mites

Remember to send your mites each
month to our RMD Treasurer.

LWML RMD
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Scholarship Recipient Heading to Sri Lanka

One of our scholarship recipients, Ben Vanderhyde is heading to Sri Lanka for his vicarage. He shares with us Easter Greetings and a Sri Lanka safety update.

The joy of Easter celebrations in Sri Lanka was cut short by a series of explosions in the cities of Colombo, Negombo, and Batticaloa. The terrorists attacked three popular Christian churches as well as some high-end hotels. Be assured our family is safe and well. We are still waiting for a visa to be approved, so we had just finished our Easter celebration in Taiwan when we heard the terrible news. Thank the Lord, the LCMS missionaries who are in Sri Lanka now are unharmed, and none of the churches in our partner Lutheran church were affected.

We want you to know that these attacks will not change our vicarage assignment. Attacks such as these would have us lie down and give in to fear. But we know that these things happen all over the world—shootings, bombings, hijackings. And Christians everywhere have a sure hope, one we remember on the holy day of Easter. Because Christ is risen, He is Lord. He is the Lord of creation, the Lord of life and death, the Lord of all. We know the work he's set before us, and we know that he will take care of us.

We are deeply saddened by Easter Sunday 2019's horrible events. We pray that those who lost loved ones would find comfort in the resurrection of the dead. We pray that God would use these events for the proclamation of his risen Son. Finally, we pray that those who are hurting in body and soul would find refuge among the communion of saints, and comfort there, through the Holy Spirit. ✠





Debbie Yocky
PRESIDENT

*Rejoice always,
pray without
ceasing, give
thanks in all
circumstances; for
this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus
for you.*

— 1 Thess. 5:16–18

2018–2020 Biennium
Theme Verses

Where does the time go? How can it be May already!

As I prepare to attend the Mobile Convention—my first LWML convention as Rocky Mt. District President, I realize that it has been 20 years since my first LWML convention. I attended the 1999 Minneapolis convention as a Rocky Mt. District Young Women Representative (YWR). I had been involved with LWML in my church and in the zone but this was my first experience with a national convention. I enjoyed every minute of it. I loved hearing about mission grants, seeing the district banners, and worshipping God with all my new LWML friends. I couldn't wait to go to another convention. I have been involved with LWML ever since.

I can't wait to carry our Rocky Mt. District banner into the convention hall with two new YWRs beside me. Even though we will be at sea level, I know it will be a mountain top experience for them.

I know that I will experience the convention in a new way as a District President. The delegates are your voices at the convention. We will be adopting a new Mission Goal, making bylaw changes, and electing new officers. Please pray for your delegates and share your opinions for mission grants and officers you would like us to select.

If you will be attending the Mobile convention, find me and say hello. Our district photo is scheduled for Thursday, June 20th, at 4:15 PM. Please be there by 4:05 PM. Our district caucus will also be on June 20th at 4:40 PM. Join us for a little fun and information. Our YWRs will receive their pins.

As you know, the 2017–2109 Mission Goal was met! To God be the Glory! 22 Mission Grants were fully funded. Each of you is making a difference in

the lives of people all around the world through these mission grants. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

Please keep our Rocky Mt. District Mission Grants in your prayers. We have sent some money to each of our grant recipients and one has been fully funded. Please continue to give generously. Check our website often for updated information on our grants, devotions, mite box calendars, and more. We are updating the website frequently so be sure to check back often. Look for information about the many ways you can donate to our Mission Grants.

I am so blessed to serve as your District President. Thank you for your support and prayers. I can't wait to see many of you in Mobile. 🙌

Debbie



“Christ is risen! These are words that we joyfully shout and proclaim on Easter and in the following weeks. We proclaim this because the events of Easter Sunday so long ago changed everything. On that day, our salvation that was won by Jesus on the cross is revealed for us. The victory of Christ over sin, death, and the devil is shown first to the women who went to the tomb, and then to His disciples. It was then shown to the rest of the world through the preaching of the Apostles in the decades following.

“But if we reflect on the events of the morning of Easter itself, we see some interesting things. First, why did the women go to the tomb? Luke 24:1 tells us, *But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.* These faithful women went to the tomb on Sunday morning because they didn’t know that Jesus’ body had been prepared for burial on Friday and they didn’t want another day to pass before the body of the Lord was properly cared for. But what they found changed everything forever. Luke continues, *And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*

The truth of death that they had always known was changed when the angels joyfully told them that Christ is risen! The world was changed that day because it was clear that death was no longer the greatest power in our lives. Of course, Jesus’ followers had witnessed Him raising people from the dead, but that was a

living man raising a dead person. But what they saw on Easter was a dead man raised apparently by his own power. Of course, this is what Jesus told them would happen, *For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.* John 10:17–18 (ESV).



Interestingly, Mark concludes his Gospel with how Jesus’ followers felt about this. Mark 16:8 says, *And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.* Change is truly a frightening thing. We don’t like it when what we thought we knew no longer stands. We don’t like having to figure out a new set of rules and assumptions.

This is true for us in the Church and in the LWML as well. As things change within our congregations, it is easy to be fearful. There aren’t as many women coming to the LWML meetings as there used to be. Getting new officers is harder and harder every year. We may even see our congregations changing, either growing or shrinking. And



Pr. Quintin Cundiff

JUNIOR PASTORAL
COUNSELOR

In Christ's Service

sometimes those changes don’t correspond to the changes that we see happening in our local LWML groups.

“But just like the women at the tomb and the disciples, we find a way to cope with the changes and we continue to move forward. A smaller or different group doesn’t mean that all is lost. A changing congregation doesn’t mean that it isn’t “our church” anymore, because if we are honest, it has never been and never will be “our church.” This is Christ’s Church! Whether or not we are in Northern Colorado, southern New Mexico, or in the panhandle of Nebraska, we are all part of Christ’s Church and He will see her through.

Just like the disciples, we have nothing to fear! We do not need to sit around wringing our hands. Rather, we need to be honest about our situations and we need to look at the resources and opportunities that God has given to us right now so that we can make the most of those opportunities and thereby be found to be His faithful servants. We have no need to fear change because Christ is risen! ✠



Amy Schultz

VP GOSPEL
OUTREACH

Mission Grant Recipients for the 2018–2020 Biennium

	Granted	Paid
Intern at Navajo Reservation in New Mexico	\$9,600	\$3,500
Trinity/HOPE	\$5,000	\$2,000
University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder	\$6,000	\$4,000
Messiah Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado Mesa University	\$6,000	\$4,000
Fostering Faith in the Forest (LVR)	\$5,000	\$2,500
St. Andrew Lutheran Church Plant	\$6,700	\$3,500
Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission	\$7,500	\$4,750
Lutherans for Life Post-Abortion Crisis Hotline	\$5,000	\$2,500
The Table at Bethlehem Lutheran Church	\$5,000	\$2,500
Financial Assistance for Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op	\$8,000	\$3,000
To Establish Lutheran Seminary in Sierra Leone	\$10,000	\$5,500
Lutheran Books for Missionaries around the World	\$5,000	\$3,250
Dominican Republic Disability Ministry (partial)	\$3,514	\$3,514
TOTAL	\$82,314	\$44,514



Amy Schultz

MISSION GRANTS
COMMITTEE

Messiah Lutheran Campus Ministry

For many years the congregation at the Lutheran Church and School of Messiah in Grand Junction, Colorado, has seen the mission field right next door at the college campus of Colorado Mesa University (CMU). They desired to provide a place for student gatherings and studying. Within the last year, the “Mavericks of Messiah” ministry was formed. A house on the church’s property was made available to the students. The house, now termed “the Luther House” will be available for studying, prayer, fellowship, peer counseling, tutoring, etc.... creating “a Christian outpost for fellowship, faith, and future.” There are twice weekly Bible study opportunities for

the college students, plus an open invitation for Christian fellowship. The congregation is working to build each other up in the Word at a time many students need it the most and bring them ever closer to the Sacraments found at Messiah just next door.

Please encourage your college-aged students to become involved in a campus ministry in their area. Local churches can be found at locator.lcms.org, or by asking your own pastor. The Christian fellowship and support these ministries provide are monumental in a young person’s life. Please continue to pray for the Mavericks of Messiah, and all campus ministries who serve the young people of the LCMS. ✝

Treasures of the Heart

Sometimes we don't recognize temptation. Maybe we don't want to. After much thought, my husband declined his dream job.

“Ever since he was a boy, he wanted to be a train conductor. Disgruntled with his current job, he applied with Amtrak. His application made it through a bunch of steps, and he was contacted for an interview.

“We sat down to have “real” conversations about what this job change would mean for our family. Good benefits, good pay... everything was good so far. Working a couple days, then a couple days off, okay. Traveling constantly, okay, that was a given. Everything seemed too good to be true.

So I asked him, “Why WOULDN'T you take this job? What's stopping you?” He took a big breath. Then he pointed out that his days off might not be days I'm even around. He might be home by himself. Family vacations and even family time together would be pretty much impossible. His involvement with church as an Elder, helping make coffee for fellowship time, and helping teach our son's Confirmation Class would be over. To

top it off, his friend who had gotten his application in the pipe at Amtrak (because he is a long time employee there) just got a divorce — his wife told him she didn't want to be with him anymore because he's never home.

“We just stared at each other. So, he would have everything he wanted at the price of his family and his church.

When you looked at it that way, it was a “DUH” moment. But it sure didn't look so bad in the beginning!

“I was reminded of Matthew 6:19–21, *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

The things of this world are beautiful and wonderful, the stuff

of dreams, but they are temporary.

“We have the treasure that will last forever, and that is better than any high-paying job. God also gave us fellow Christians to help us along the way, to point out which treasures are worth keeping in our hearts. Which treasures are most important. 🌿



Shelley Stewart

VP SERVANT
RESOURCES



MATTHEW 6:21



Susan Avila

ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN

Take a ride with me on the RMD Time Machine...

Though our LWML district has gone through a name change — Colorado to Rocky Mountain — and a few logo re-designs since we began in 1942, the LWML Rocky Mountain District is the same age as the national LWML organization and has been “serving the Lord with gladness” for the past 77 years. In Albuquerque in 2017 we celebrated the LWML’s 75th anniversary with our LWML sisters in Christ, but in 2018 we met for our 49th convention and in 2020 we will be celebrating our 50th. So why don’t the numbers add up?

As I was thinking about the idea of a timeline as a display at Keystone, I counted annual Colorado District

conventions every year until 1963. After many years of having discussed and bringing forward for a vote whether the convention should be biennial instead of annual, in 1963 and as part of several other proposed bylaw revisions, the convention delegates voted to go biennial. So the first biennial Colorado District convention was in 1964. Our District has had 21 annual conventions (1943–1963) and next June will be our 29th biennial convention (1964–2020).

So this is where the numbers add up: 21 annual plus 29 biennial makes 50 convention meetings of the LWML Rocky Mountain District and what a “golden anniversary” party it will be! 🌿



Nora Sotak

MISSION SERVANTS
COMMITTEE

At the Board of Directors’ (BOD) meeting in February, the Mission Servant committee began thinking about our 2020 District Convention in Keystone, Colo. We especially thought about the ingathering for this convention.

I’m not from Colorado and I am not a skier, so when everyone talks about convention at Keystone, it doesn’t connect with me. But I hear it is “way up in the mountains,” and the committee doesn’t want participants to drag lots of bulky (yet much needed) items up to the convention, only to have to haul them back down the mountain to distribute them. With this thought in mind, the committee started to brainstorm at the BOD meeting. Here are some ideas we are considering. Remember when you read this list that absolutely nothing has been decided, these are just some ideas.

- Hat, scarf, and glove sets for the homeless, a mustard seed, Portals of Prayer, or Arch Book could be included, to distribute to homeless shelters near your location. Bring only the count of sets you distributed.

- Bethesda Lutheran Communities: Gift Cards, Movie Coupons, and/or cash for counselors are needed items.
- Lutheran Valley Retreat: What do they need for their Foster Kids summer camp program? Water bottles with carabiners? Is there another program that might need our help?
- Duffle bags for foster kids to keep their belongings in.
- Navajo Mission (Pastor Norton): There is NO storage space at the mission so Walmart or Home Depot gift cards or money donations would work.
- Saint Andrew Lutheran Church, new mission church in Albuquerque: We are looking into what we could do to further their mission?

So, what do you think? Is there another project you would like to see us consider? Be sure to let the committee chairman, Janet Krogh, missionservants@lwmlrmd.org, know. 🌿

Mite Plea

☞Your prayerful support of the LWML Mite Goal and your generosity were vital to meeting and exceeding the national LWML Mite Goal for the 2017–2019 biennium. Thank you.

☞But our work is not done. As of March 31st, we are half way through our 2018–2020 Rocky Mt. District biennium. We have received approximately 54% of the mite offerings needed to fund our mission grants. If we are to meet our obligation to these important missions,

our mite offerings need to increase.

☞During the last few months, donations were up. You responded generously when asked to support our mission grants. We still need your help.

☞Please consider how you can be more intentional about supporting our mite goals. Please continue to pray for the LWML.

Debbie Yockey



Debbie Yockey

PRESIDENT

How can you help?

1. Continue to pray daily for our mission grant recipients. Information about our grants is available on our website.
2. ☞Involve your congregation. We plan to send information about mission grants and our progress directly to congregations. You can share that information with your pastor, your congregation, and your LWML groups. Bulletin inserts, mite calendars, updates, and devotions are available for you use on the website.
3. ☞Include your congregation in collecting mite offerings.
4. Consider enrolling in the Joyful Response program. You can set up scheduled donations to the LWML Rocky Mt. District deducted directly from your bank account.
5. ☞Use Amazon Smile or GoodSearch to donate directly to national LWML.
6. There's a new program for LWML — Donate Your Change (DYC). With DYC, a created Roundup Giving account rounds up credit card purchases to the nearest dollar and donates the difference to the LWML. It's like a digital mite box. The district receives 20% of your donations.

☞As the time for the convention in Alabama nears, we pray for those who will be attending and voting for new officers and new grant recipients that the Lord would guide their choices. We also pray for safe travel for all who will be attending the convention. Those

of us who are unable to attend will be present in spirit and via live streaming.

☞Interested in writing a Bible study, devotion, or sketch? Go for it. Send your items to Brenda Sima, our Christian Resources Editor, for review. New items are always appreciated. 🌿



Beth Nagy

VP CHRISTIAN LIFE

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