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## Connect with Us



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when hosting our grandchildren. Even the candles a few years when hosting our grandchildren. Even the candlelight service at our church switched to battery operated candles this year. The problem with these devices are the batteries; they only power the light for so long. For Christians, Jesus came to be our light in the darkness. His batteries don't wear out. We find His light every time we read the scripture, sing a hymn, hear the pastor's message. We see His light in the people we meet, those who are touched by the missions of the LWML, in the phone call from a friend that comes just when we need it. We feel His light in spite of the world's chaos and darkness of sin.

Jesus' message is one of hope and love. On Christmas Eve we sang of Immanuel...God with us, and Jesus....our Redeemer. God has promised and delivered on the hope of a savior and a redeemer. In searching the scriptures it is not difficult to find references to hope. Paul writes in Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. In Titus 1:1–2 Paul speaks of the hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began. As we begin a new year, may we look around us with hope and trust in God's promises.

In our current issue of *Tidings*, look for the work that is being accomplished to bring hope to the world. Amy Schultz informed me that the grant to Fill Haitian Tummies and Open Ears to the Gospel has been partially paid. Also, The Children's Food Bag Ministry has been paid in full. These grants provide hope for the needy both through physical food and spiritual food. Look for Bible study and Christian growth opportunities ahead through the visual faith study of Colossians, Lutheran Hour Ministries training, ordering your copies of the LWML *Quarterly*, and making plans to attend the National Convention in Lexington, KY. You can even find ideas for estate planning, joining a writing group, and collecting mites for a year end gift.

Don't let your batteries go dead, Jesus is our everlasting light and His light gives us hope.

Tidings Editor, Sue Giddings

Debbie Yocky
PRESIDENT

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly



Colossians 3:15-17

Biennium Theme Verse The beginning of a new year is a natural time for a fresh start.

Most of us can't wait for 2020 to be over. We hope that as we turn the calendar to 2021, life will somehow return to normal. All the chaos and pain will be just a memory, a 2020 thing. That may not be a realistic view of January 2021. But as Christians we don't need to wait for a date on the calendar for a fresh start.

If you Google Bible verses for new beginnings over 100 verses pop up. The Bible begins and ends with the image of a new heaven and a new earth. These verses from Lamentations 3:22–24 provide hope and encouragement in these dark days. Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion, therefore I will wait for him." We don't have to wait for a new year or even for our circumstances to change to have a new attitude. We are made new every morning! We can rely on God to be faithful in every circumstance. We can trust that He will never forsake us or abandon us. We can rely on God to show compassion for us no matter what we are facing.

How can we rest in God's promises? How can we trust God to protect us and our loved ones during such trying times? We spend time in the Word, we pray, we remember those times when God has been faithful, and we hold each other close. We share the hope we have with those around us through our words and actions.

Many of you joined us for Bible study or the Lutheran Hour Ministries Eager Conversationalist Workshop over the last few months. Although many of us were not able to gather in person, we can gather online. When we gather together to study the Word or learn how to share our faith we grow as individuals and as a community. The distance doesn't matter as much when our hearts and minds are focused on God. We can be made new. January marks the start of our second online Bible study. Servant Resources Vice President Shelley Stewart will lead a Bible study on Colossians beginning on January 4, 2021. In February we will partner with Lutheran Hour Ministries to offer the Spiritual Conversation Curve Workshop.

We will eventually get through this pandemic and be able to gather together in person with our LWML sisters and brothers. In November the Executive Committee made the difficult decision to move our February Board of Directors meeting to an online experience. Our theme will be "Put on Love" based on Colossians 3:14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Let us be a people of compassion and love and share the Gospel message with a world that is hurting.

We would love to hear how you are supporting each other during these trying times and how you have continued the mission work of the LWML. Thank you all for your generous mite offerings and your prayers. We are making a difference in our communities and our world.

Debbie

#### **An Everlasting Hope**

The Christmas lights which graced our homes and neighborhoods will soon be taken down, if they haven't already. Christmas trees have been dismantled or discarded. Decorations have been packed up and stowed away for another year. And while the days may be getting longer, it will likely be awhile before we eat an evening meal before the sun sets.

These are the dark and bleak days of winter. The festivities of Christmas and New Year — as muted as they were this year — have faded away, even if the memories of 2020 will not soon be forgotten.

Winter seems to have taken hold of the land, at least here in the northern mountains of LWML RMD. We might find ourselves longing for the lengthening of days and warmer weather.

Some people began this New Year dreading what might come. Others find themselves full of hope. After last year, it might seem like things have to get better.

There is hope to be found in this New Year, but it's not the kind of hope that comes with the prospect of longer days or even a vaccine. Our hope is found in the coming of the Christ child.

The prophet Isaiah spoke of that hope some 800 years before the birth of Jesus:

#### Isaiah 60:1-3 (ESV)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen

upon you.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

No matter how dark and gloomy the world may seem, we have a hope that shines through the darkness. As Saint John writes, *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* John 1:5

Jesus has come as the Light of the World. A few weeks ago, we celebrated Christ's birth. Now, we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. The Epiphany — celebrated each year on January 6th — is the day that the Church remembers the revelation of Jesus to the World. The Season of Epiphany lasts until Ash Wednesday. In the days and weeks to come, we will hear about the Magi coming from the East to worship Jesus; about Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River; and about how Jesus called His disciples to follow Him.

Our hope rests in Jesus. He gives us an everlasting hope rooted in His death and resurrection through which He grants us forgiveness, life, and salvation. No matter what may come in this New Year, rejoice in the Lord. He has come to bring us salvation.

Pr. Jonathan G. Schultz

SENIOR PASTORAL COUNSELOR



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## Beth Nagy GOSPEL OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEMBER



## Mites

Remember to send mites to our treasurer:

Yvonne Steeby LWML RMD Treasurer PO Box 1657 Alamogordo, NM 88310

#### **Reaching Out in the Community**

The grant to reach the Hispanic Community of Commerce City, CO has been partially paid. Some of the plans as originally set out in the grant are temporarily on hold as a result of COVID 19. Our Savior Lutheran Church has been unable to start a Sunday School class for the local children. There have been no community events at which to make connections with the community and no block-to-block canvassing.

The church has purchased Spanish language Mustard Seeds which they are using in two ways:

1. They can practice speaking and reading Spanish. Only one person in the group is bilingual and though it may not be necessary to be fluent in Spanish, using the Mustard Seeds helps them to be able to share the Word.

2. They are going to include the Mustard Seeds with a small,

postcard-size brochure announcing events happening at the church which will be in both English and Spanish.

Finding a translator device that will translate the Sunday service into Spanish in real time is also being pursued. Currently, their bilingual member will translate Pastor Young's written sermon into Spanish and post it on the church website. The Sunday sermons are also being shared on the church's Facebook page. Links to written and virtual sermons are included in the brochure mentioned above.

Our Savior Lutheran Church received a donation of 35 gift cards for families in the area to get food for Thanksgiving. Pastor Victor Young wrote a card with a prayer that was in both English and Spanish and he included the card with the gift card.

Kingdom Kids' Camp at Lutheran Valley Retreat: \$5,000

Concordia Theological Seminary Food & Co-op Financial Assistance: \$8,000 | \$3,250 Paid

God Cares About You –
"Children's Weekend Food
Bag Ministry":
\$8,000 | Paid in Full

Mercy Meals of Colorado Springs: \$5,000

Interns at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Navajo, NM: \$9,000 Support for University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder, CO:

\$8,000 | \$3,250 Paid

Introducing Muslims to the Savior — Lutheran Heritage Foundation: \$5,000

Filling Haitian Tummies
Opens Ears to the Gospel —
Trinity HOPE:
\$5,000 | \$3,500 Paid

Bringing Christ's Light to Those Living in Darkness — Lutheran Braille Workers: \$8,000 The Table at Bethlehem Lakewood, CO: \$5,000

Faith Connections & Resources for People with Disabilities — Bethesda: \$6.000

Reaching the Hispanic Community of Commerce City, CO: \$7,996 | \$4,000 Paid

LWML Global Bible Studies by Donna Pyle: \$3,964.28 | Paid in Full

\$83,960.28 | \$25,964.28 30.92% Paid

### Challenges

ately I have been hearing people encourage others to "remember the good times" in the midst of all the closing and cancellations going on over the holidays. I fully disagree. If we dwell on how things were better "before" we run the risk of being blind to the blessings that God is bringing to us right now. We would be like the Israelites grumbling against Moses in the wilderness (Exodus 16), saying how everything was better when they were slaves. Slaves! How could it possibly have been better? In response to their whining, God sent manna and quail for the people to eat. Still they complained.

What blessings have you received during this time of uncertainty? Focus on the new blessings, not how great it was "before." Don't let the changes make you spiritually blind to the manna God is raining down on you. At the beginning of all this, being cooped up in the house with my kids and my husband was irritating. Now it has become one of the greatest blessings, as we all become closer and more grace-filled when dealing with each other. We have solidified a love of each other that is God-given, but might have gone unnoticed and under-utilized without the "challenges" we have been given. What challenges in your life have been blessings in disguise?

Shelley Stewart
SERVANT RESOURCES



T hank you for lives. We app

Thank you for letting us be a part of your lives. We appreciate you connecting with us through social media and email. It's good to know that you are enjoying the posts, birthday greetings, emails, coloring pages, and other work (much of which gets done behind the scenes), including the *Tidings*.

Remember that you can choose which emails you receive from us through updating email preferences. Starting in 2021, we will be only sending out certain email messages to those who wish to get them, such as Prayers and *Tidings*. We will also start to do this with the Bible study announcements.

So if you would like to be a prayer warrior for LWML RMD, then check to see if your preferences has Prayers checked. If you would like to know about the Bible studies, then check Christian Life. If you want to be the first to receive the Tidings, then check Tidings. You can always contact us if you need assistance.

Tanya Hall
COMMUNICATIONS VP



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Beth Weber

GIFTS OF LOVE ADVOCATE



Returning God's Blessings

J esus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31–32).

In Christ we have everything we need for this life and we have the gift of life eternal. The LWML seeks to assist women in being grounded in God's Word and free to share the Gospel of Christ in their words and deeds. Please consider joining LWML in this work by supporting the LWML through Gifts of Love. With your help we can continue to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that people find the Gospel truth

and be set free from sin and death to live with Him forever.

Contact LWML Gift Planning Counselors to see how they can assist you with expressing your faith through a Christian Estate Plan. You may contact Gift Planner:

Carol von Soosten

Email: Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org, Phone: 800-741-4138 or through the website, lwmlqiftplan.org

Rocky Mountain District Advocate Elizabeth Weber

Email: weber4342@acsol.net

Cell: (970) 361-079

#### Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus



I f you have ever attended a National LWML Convention, you know that it isn't all about business and voting!

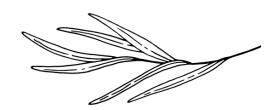
When you go to the 2021 LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, there will be many opportunities awaiting you. Here's a short list. Servant Connections, a Mission Walk, time for worship, Keynote speaker, Linda Reiser (LWML president 2003–2007), Bible study with deaconess and mental health practitioner Heidi Goehman, Mites in Action Speakers, two humorous interrupters, and special entertainment by bluegrass artist Billie Renee Johnson. There

will be meals and special luncheons as well as concession stands and access to Lexington restaurants.

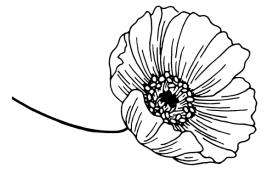
Information and Registration forms are featured in the Winter 2020 *Quarterly* but can also be found on the LWML website. Convention dates are June 24–27, 2021. Housing registration opens January 5, 2021, early registration starts February 1, 2021, and regular registration opens March 15, 2021. You can save \$20 by registering early.

The Convention Committee is excited to offer Lexington, Kentucky as the site of the 39th Biennial Convention. The surrounding area features rolling hills of bluegrass and 450 horse farms. Join LWML as we are Running the Race...Looking to Jesus.

Mite Bingo



Read 1 Kings 3:4-15	Pray for our country's leadership	Donate \$0.50 to your Mite Box if you made a New Year's Resolution. Add \$0.50 if you didn't keep it.	Recite 1 John 4:19 "We love because God first loved us."	On President's Day (2/15) add Washington or Lincoln to your Mite Box
Reach out to a friend or family member	Snow or Rain? Thank the Lord for His bountiful goodness.	Read Psalm 139:1-10	Pray for those who are lonely	Share with LWML RMD a picture of how your mite bingo card is filling up
Attend Bible study! Our next LWML RMD online Bible Study starts January 4	Play a game or watch a movie	FREE WILL DONATION	Feed your Mite Box when you take down Christmas decorations	Read Isaiah 60:1-6
Donate \$0.75 to your Mite Box — just because!	Pray for our pastors and missionaries	Smile at people — they can see it in your eyes!	Send a valentine to someone and pray for them	Turn in mites to local or district treasurer
Pray for those who struggle for equality	Read 2 Corinthians 3:12	Give thanks with a grateful heart!	Donate \$0.50 for any flowers that start to grow	Keep the LWML RMD leadership in your prayers as they meet in February



January/February 2021

#### **Mite Stockings**



ne way that St. Paul's Lutheran Ladies Guild members collect mites is by giving each member a small felt stocking to fill with coins or bills throughout the year. After deciding what coin or bill you want to use, you place money in the stocking each month. For example, if you chose dimes, you would put in one dime in January, two dimes in February, three dimes in March, and so forth throughout the year. By the end of the year, you should have collected 78 of your chosen coin or bill. At the last gathering in December the stockings are collected to send the mites to the district treasurer.

#### Quarterly Renewal

Representation on the Lutheran Women's Quarterly are due no later than February 28, 2021. The cost is \$6.00 each for ten or more and \$7.50 each for less than ten. You can find the remittance form on the LWML RMD website by clicking on the heading for Forms and Resources. On that page you can find other helpful forms for changing officers and remitting money for mites, as well as a postcard sized list of Mission Grants that can be used as a bookmark.

### **Upcoming Events**

January 4	Colossians Bible Study with Shelley Stewart (every 2 weeks through March 15) 7:00–8:30 PM
January 5	Convention Housing registration opens.
January 15	Deadline to submit banner designs for the National Convention.
January 15	Deadline to submit an application for YWR to the National Convention.
February 1	Early discounted registration opens for the National Convention through March 14.
February 5–6	Board of Directors Meeting over Zoom. Theme: Put on Love
February 9	Lutheran Hour Ministries Training 8–9:30 AM
February 20	Lutheran Hour Ministries Training 9–10:30 AM
February 28	Quarterly Renewal Deadline

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## Fall Rallies

At the October 17, 2020 LWML RMD Pecos Zone Fall Rally in Roswell, NM, Pastor Gary Piepkorn, LWML RMD Pecos Zone Pastoral Counselor, from Faith in Christ, Portales, NM, led the two-part Bible Study "My Peace I Give" based on John 14:27.

Pastor Piepkorn shared that peace comes directly from Jesus, the kind of peace we want and need. He is the originator of peace through what He did and completed. It is not like the world's peace, a lack of conflict, but it's both an internal and eternal peace. It results in the removal of troubled hearts. God brings peace that transcends all, real peace, not just a coexistence without conflict. He brings peace that breaks down any barriers and that only He can bring. We strive for peace, even with our enemies, so that they, too, can become believers. We should pray for peace, the peace we have for all eternity.

Pastor Piepkorn (pictured below) is on the ballot at the 2021 Convention in Lexington, Kentucky as a candidate for the National LWML Pastoral Counselor.



LWML RMD
President Debbie
Yocky and
several Pecos
Zone LWML
members
attended via
Zoom. The
attendance at
the rally was 20.
This was the first
virtual rally
experience for
the Pecos Zone.

Christie Peebles

CHRISTIAN
RESOURCES EDITOR



#### Say Yes

oohoo! We made it through 2020. While 2020 faced us with many new challenges, it also gave us a chance to reflect on the truly important aspect of our lives. For many of us, we were forced to slow down when we could no longer run from one activity to the next. How did you spend that time? I spent a lot of time gardening and crafting. I also personally found myself spending more time in devotions and more time reflecting on the blessings in my life.

As you reflect on 2020, what lessons has God been teaching you? Have

you ever considered stepping outside your comfort zone to share what you have been learning with others? Are you interested in stretching your creative muscles by developing a short Bible study or devotion? Would you be interested in participating in a writing group to help encourage you along the way? If so, please email the district Christian Resources Editor by February 14 to express your interest in participating. I encourage you to say yes to a new experience and see what else God may have in store for you.

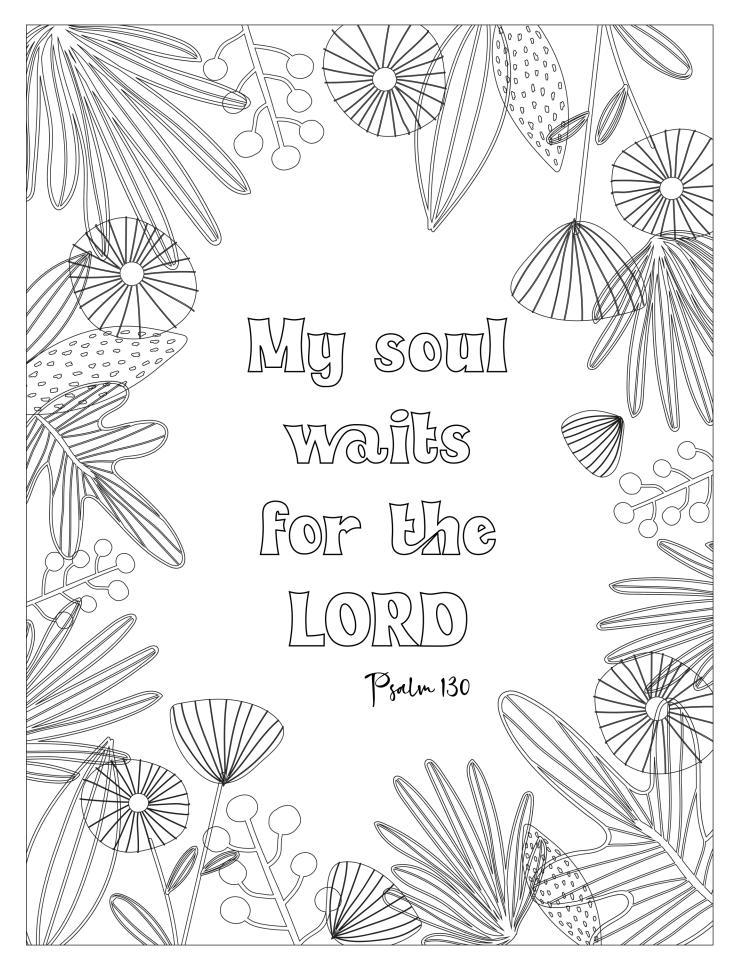
#### YWR Application Deadline

I f you are an LCMS woman between the ages of 22–35 and would enjoy the opportunity to attend the 2021 National LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, act fast! The deadline to apply is January 15. You can find the application form and other information on the LWML RMD website.



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

10 January | February 2021



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