

A publication of Lutheran Women's Missionary League Rocky Mountain District Volume 77 | Issue 5 March| April 2021



President	2
Pastoral Counselor	3
Gospel Outreach	4
Servant Resources	5
Communications	5
Gifts of Love	6
Fall Retreat	6
Mite Challenge	6
Retreat Flyer	7
Around the District	8
Upcoming Events	8
Drive Thru Ministry	9
Christian Life	10
Cards to Color	11
Addresses	12

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. **P** raise God from whom all blessings flow. There are many blessings in our lives on a daily basis. Did you know that one is LWML reaching the national mission goal of \$2.1 million set in 2019 in Mobile, Alabama for the 2019–2021 biennium? All grants will be paid and the money remaining will be applied to the new goal set in Lexington, Kentucky. What blessings can you personally think of when you sing the Doxology?

In this issue of *Tidings* you can find examples of God's graciousness in the progress of our own district mission goal. Read about Mercy Meals prepared here in the Rocky Mountain District to be sent around the world. Notice the excitement of preparing for the National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky. Young Woman Representatives (YWRs), Stella Shoultz from Trinity in Gallup, NM and Abby Bridget from Messiah in Grand Junction, CO, were chosen at the February Board of Directors meeting. They will meet other YWRs from around the nation gaining insights to bring back to their societies, zones, and our district. Also chosen at the Board of Directors meeting was the district banner design. It was designed as a collaborative effort by Anita Mayes and JoAnn Beegles from St Paul's in Durango, CO with the theme of Running to Jesus. Around the District Lutheran Women in Mission are glorifying God and communicating His love in ways that are truly amazing. Look for lots of convention information in President Debbie Yocky's and also in Christian Life Vice President Brenda Sima's articles.

Looking ahead, the Events Planning Committee has been busy setting up a fall retreat based on the theme, *Be Still*. They also are busy with initial plans for the 2022 Rocky Mountain District Convention in Albuquerque, NM. It takes lots of dedication behind the scenes to plan these events. Fall Rally dates will be announced in our next issue.

Sadly, the LWML RMD was forced to remove the grant proposed by Bethesda Communities. Due to changes in staffing at Bethesda Communities, Colorado, we are no longer able to fund that mission grant for the 2020–2022 biennium. The grant was specifically written to cover travel expenses and resources for the Religious Life staff, which has been eliminated. We encourage continued prayers and support for the Bethesda Auxiliary and Bethesda clients. Any further questions can be directed to President Debbie Yocky or Gospel Outreach Vice President Amy Schultz.

Debbie Yocky PRESIDENT

Let the word of Christ olwell in you richly



Colorsians 3:15–17 Biennium Theme Verse W ill Spring finally make an appearance? This has been a long winter. We had colder and more unpredictable weather than we have seen in a long time. I am so thankful for technology that allows me to meet with LWML women in Bible study and meetings even though we are separated by many miles.

In February our Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors met via Zoom. Our Events Planning Committee shared information about the 2022 LWML RMD Albuquerque Convention and 2021 RMD Fall Retreat. Plans are well underway for these events. I can't wait to see many of you in person soon.

One of the big topics discussed was the 2021 LWML Lexington Convention. At this time plans are going forward to meet in person in Lexington. The 2021 LWML Lexington Convention will be held June 24-27, 2021, at the Rupp Arena, home of the Kentucky Wildcats. The arena has a seating capacity of 20,500 providing plenty of space to socially distance. President Debbie Larson and the Convention Planning Committee (CPC) have planned and prayed for months to determine how to hold an in-person convention safely during a pandemic. Safety precautions are in place and all state and federal guidelines will be followed. Please continue to pray for President Debbie and the CPC during the next few months. I plan to attend the convention and am hopefully optimistic that we will gather in person.

Registration forms can be completed on-line or mailed. More information and registration forms are in the winter Quarterly. The Early Registration Deadline has been extended through April 14, 2021. Visit the LWML website for up to date information.

The convention theme is "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus." Linda Reiser will be our Keynote Speaker and Heidi Goehmann will be our Bible Study Leader. This will be Heidi's first LWML Convention. Dr. Dina Vendetti will be our song leader. Servants Events will be held on Thursday, June 24, 2021. Many half and full day tours are available pre and post convention. The Saturday evening entertainment is open to all attendees and their guests free of charge.

The Mission Goal and Mission Grant balloting will be done electronically prior to convention. Thirty-four mission grants were selected for the ballot including two Rocky Mountain District grants, Bringing the Inner-City Children to Camp, Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado, and Showing God's Love in the International District, Albuquerque, NM. Former Rocky Mountain **District Pastoral Counselor Reverend Gary Piepkorn has been** nominated for Pastoral Counselor. Please keep these ministries and Pastor Piepkorn in your prayers.

All sessions and worship services will be live-streamed. You can even participate in a Virtual Photo Finish Mission Walk. Gather pledges and mission dollars and take pictures of your walk. These photos will be displayed on the screen during the 2021 LWML Lexington Convention if emailed by June 4, 2021.

Please share this information with your group and congregation. I hope to see many of you in Lexington.

Jeblie

## Let us Rejoice in Him

W e have begun the Lenten Season of the Church year, which encourages us to look at our Suffering Savior so that we can come to a better understanding of just how great God's love is for us. God spoke to Isaiah in the time when many of the Israelites had given up on God and the future was in question. God says to us as he did to Isaiah, Behold, My servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you -- His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind— so shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of Him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. Who has believed what he has heard from us? (Isaiah 52:13 - 53:1)

God's only Son, Jesus Christ, His servant, did act wisely and was lifted up and exalted at the right hand of God to prepare an everlasting Home for all people. This is the part of our salvation that we celebrate during the Easter Season in April and May, but in March we look at all that God, through Jesus Christ, did for us so that we too can sit with Jesus and all believers in our everlasting Home with God. From the beginning, the mission of LWML has been to help and encourage all people to believe and hear all about what our Suffering Savior has done for all of us so that we can be in His love, peace and joy in the midst of all the suffering, turmoil and evil of this world and especially for all eternity in God's Heavenly Home.

During the Lenten season we focus on how many were and are still astonished at all that God through His Son, Jesus Christ would go through to make sure that each of us have the opportunity to live eternity in God's Love, peace and joy instead of the hatred, pain and suffering that we deserve because of our rejection of God, our Creator and sustainer. Oh, the suffering and pain that Jesus goes through for us is not what most people want to ponder upon at any time of their life. Still, during the Lenten season of the Church year, we direct our attention to what it takes to free us from our sins and damnation so that we can even more appreciate the resurrection we are given by Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning, so we can live with Him forever.

What a joy and blessing it will be as we are given the opportunity to celebrate Easter this year in the presence of our fellow believers, which many of us missed last year because of COVID-19. What a joy and blessing it will be this summer at the 2021 National LWML Convention, as we gather together to celebrate all the work that God has done through the LWML in the Rocky Mountain District, the Synod and the world. We rejoice this Easter for all that God has done to bring us to the heavenly Home He wants to share with us for eternity. So we rejoice with the LWML in all the work that God has done through all of the women of the LWML to enable others to hear and come to understand the GOOD NEWS of Iesus' resurrection and our salvation. Amen.

Pr. Pete Scheele JUNIOR PASTORAL COUNSELOR



Amy Schultz GOSPEL OUTREACH VP



### **Mercy Meals**

I mmanuel Lutheran School's kitchen used to be a busy place. Five days a week, delicious meals such as French bread pizza and chili with cinnamon rolls were prepared to feed hungry school children. Sadly, the school closed its doors in 2009. This once bustling kitchen lost its purpose and was destined to be idle and empty. Or was it?

Immanuel members Duane & Marilyn Grasz and Miriam Schinnerer attended a luncheon in early 2018. The speaker, Garry Fuller the director of the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) station in Castle Rock, shared the need for Mercy Meals to be packaged. However, OGT could not find any spaces in Castle Rock that would work to package the meals. The Immanuel members invited Mr. Fuller to come to Colorado Springs to ask if the Immanuel school kitchen could work for packaging the meals. After confirming that the kitchen met the specific requirements of the OGT headquarters in Norfolk, installing the necessary equipment, and

making a trial run of packaging meals, the kitchen at Immanuel once again found purpose in feeding people.

Developed by nutrition scientists, Mercy Meals contain white longgrain rice, a food staple around the world; soy flakes to supply protein; a blend of dried vegetables to provide color and flavor; and chicken flavoring that includes 20 vitamins and minerals. These four dry ingredients are packaged into 3-ply bags which will keep for long periods. All that is required to make a nutritious meal for six people is to add boiling water. Each bag only costs \$0.78! Since Mercy Meals of Colorado Springs began packaging meals in January 2019, 48 volunteers from 5 different churches have made 139,740 meals that have been shipped across the US and around the world.

The Rocky Mountain District LWML is providing a \$5,000 Mission Grant to support Mercy Meals of Colorado Springs.

Mites \$5

Remember to send mites to our treasurer:

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

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

\$77,960.28 | \$25,964.28 33.30% Paid

\*Bethesda grant removed See note on page 1.

# The Race

I 'm so excited I can hardly stand it. As the time for Convention gets closer, it gets worse. I love Convention, but this year I look forward to it more than before. It might be because our Convention last summer was canceled, and I miss seeing everyone in person. It might be because both my husband and daughter are going to attend with me, and I get to watch the wonder and fun of Convention through their eyes. It might be just because I love having time to worship with my LWML sisters.

Eleanor Roosevelt is credited with saying, "Women are like teabags. You don't know what they're made of until you put them in hot water." The same is true for Christians. When we are pressured, you get out of us what has been put in. If that is the Word, you will get huge amounts of faith and trust. If the things that were put in were more "of this world".... You get what you put in.

# Partners in the Gospel

During COVID, I've learned what is important to me. After hearing what ladies are doing around the district, that theme seems quite prevalent. Many are staying connected with each other because community is important for them — sometimes it's mailing the *Tidings* to those who cannot come to church and are not on email; other times, it's trying something new like Zoom. Ladies still send in mites; others are in the Word with their sisters online.

Recently, LWML RMD in partnership with Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) had several sessions of the workshop *The Spiritual Conversations Curve*. Over 30 women attended this During this pandemic, everything has been turned upside down. Events have been canceled, sometimes even church was canceled. Some people have used this time to renew their faith, participate in online Bible Studies, and to make new steps in their faith journey. Some have merely drifted away. They couldn't attend, so when restrictions opened up, it wasn't high in their priorities. The sad thing is that as the Convention theme states, we are running a race (Hebrews 12:1-2). The race hasn't stopped because of the pandemic. Jesus is still coming again, and everyone will still be judged, regardless of how they were affected by the pandemic.

Do you recognize someone in your life who is no longer paying attention to the "race"? Let's take a minute to put something into them that will yield good fruit, whether that is support, encouragement, or maybe just a kind word.

workshop. Thank you to LHM for providing this workshop to our district. A starter kit is also available for anyone who wants to provide the workshop at their congregation. Another workshop could be scheduled later in the spring, if there is enough interest. If you would like a starter kit or have interest in another workshop, please contact us at *hello@lwmlrmd.org*.

It is easy to think that our lives shut down due to covid. How wonderful that so many ladies are proving that is not the case. We are still in fellowship, in the Word, and being partners in the Gospel.

Shelley Stewart SERVANT RESOURCES VP



Tanya Hall



### Beth Weber

GIFTS OF LOVE ADVOCATE



• he word of the Lord endures forever. That phrase was one of the clarion calls of the Reformation, and it is one that still holds true today. In fact, it is why we continue to gather as God's people, and it is why we seek to spread the Word far and wide: the Word endures and it speaks to every generation of the grace and forgiveness of God. Your life of faith is evidence of God's enduring Word, a Word that was planted into your heart and fills you with hope. Gifts of Love seeks to support the ongoing proclamation of that Word into all generations, allowing you to share what has been sown in you with countless others. As you think about the future, planning for the benefit of your family and the organizations that are dear to you, know that the

promise of our Lord is true when it comes to His Word. When the Divine Sower scatters seed, it will be planted and held fast in honest and good hearts, bearing fruit for the kingdom of God.

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, lwmlgiftplan.org

Rocky Mountain District Advocate Elizabeth Weber Email: weber4342@acsol.net Cell: (970) 361-079

### Colleen Spahr

Events Planning Committee



## Rest in His Word and in His World

T he first biannual LWML RMD Fall Retreat will take place September 10-12, 2021 at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Hillside, Colorado.

The camp is located in front of the Sangre de Christo Mountains—a great place to enjoy God's creation. Deb Burma, author of *Be Still & Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge*, will be our retreat leader. **Registration begins May 1 and ends on August 1.** All lodging will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. The registration form will be found on our website at www.lwmlrmd.org. Registrations will be made through Colleen Spahr, Retreat Chairman. Check out the camp at www.rainbowtrail.org Click on Retreats at the top of the page and select Create Your Own. You will be able to view the various options for lodging and meeting places. If you have questions, please contact Colleen by calling or texting 303-829-3251 or by email at retreat@lwmlrmd.org

# Mite Challenge

**T** he LWML Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors met on February 6, 2021 via Zoom. Attendees participated in a mite challenge and raised \$287.23 in mite offerings during the virtual meeting. Those present were asked to put change in their mite boxes whenever they heard the words purple, LWML, Lexington, and you're muted. Why not have a mite challenge of your own and let us know the results!

# First Biannual LWML RMD Fall Retreat

Featuring Deb Burma as our retreat leader with her new book *Be Still & Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge* 



September 10–12, 2021



At Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp Hillside, Colorado

Registration happens May 1 - August 1

For registration form, visit our website: **IwmIrmd.org** 

More information, please contact us: 303.829.3251 (Colleen Spahr) retreat@lwmlrmd.org

### Around the District

### **Pies Galore**

**D** espite Covid 19, St. Paul's Lutheran Women in Mission pulled off another successful Pie Auction in November 2020. In past years the proceeds have gone to LCMS World and Disaster Relief, the church preschool, Navajo Mission, LWML RMD Mites, the Durango Pregnancy Center, and for Syrian refugee work by Lutheran Hour Ministries. This year the entire amount of \$2,792 was donated locally to the Durango Food Bank.

Over 45 pies, desserts, cakes, and "pietificates" were available for purchase. Those who could not attend could order pies ahead of time or participate virtually. There were even kid-sized treats to buy. *Charity never faileth.* (I Corinthians 13:8 KJV).

### **Zone Projects and Challenges**

A t the recent Board of Directors meeting, Zone presidents shared successes and challenges. Keeping connected is always a challenge, as is holding in person events during our pandemic.

Some successful projects have been happening around the district. North Eastern Zone members are great supporters of Mites. Southern Zone is planning a Spring workshop called *Sharing God's Light*. South Central Zone plans to hold a virtual prayer service. To keep in touch societies send cards of encouragement, deliver the *Quarterly* to shut ins, or have changed their meeting schedule to alternate and allow for activities, Bible study, and business.

# **Upcoming Events**

March 8	Session 5 The Supremacy of Christ Bible Study
March 15	Session 6 The Supremacy of Christ Bible Study
March 19	Final Decision of National BOD regarding Convention
March 31	End of the National Biennium
April 14	Deadline for Early Discounted Convention Registration
April 15	Convention Registration opens
May 1	Retreat Registration begins



### **Drive Thru Ministry and Fun**

**T** he driveway that passes through Immanuel Lutheran Church's property in Albuquerque has provided the perfect opportunity each season for our LWML/Ladies' Aid group to offer church members a chance for short, sociallydistanced visits, sweet treats, and mission donations. In December we organized a "Share Some Warmth" Drive-Thru, during which people were invited to donate, without leaving the safety and comfort of their cars, much-needed blankets and socks to God Cares About You. We collected and delivered 69 warm blankets, 269 pairs of socks, and

dozens of gently-used winter coats, hats, mittens, and gloves.

In the fall we sponsored a Dessert Happy Hour Drive-Thru. Tasty, home-made dessert items and root beer floats were offered, and a donation check of \$790 was sent to Pastor Norton's Navajo Mission. Concordia Seminary's Food Bank was the recipient of a donation of \$400 as the result of our Drive-Thru Cookie Sale in the spring.

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land (Deuteronomy 15:11).



Why not organize your own drive thru activity and we'll publish it in the *Tidings*.

Send your story to *Tidings* editor, Sue Giddings at

sueg851@gmail.com

Brenda Sima CHRISTIAN LIFE

#### VP



## Anticipating Convention (and Retail Therapy)

Can you feel it? Is there a hint of something special in the air? Is your skin tingling, just a little?

The 2021 LWML National Convention sets on the horizon and the energy being generated to joyfully celebrate with our national LWML Sisters in Christ is already being felt. In case you have been out of the loop due to COVID-19 and haven't yet heard, the 39th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is at hand: The location: Lexington, Kentucky; the date: June 24th-27th, 2021; the theme: Running the Race...Looking to Jesus; the Scripture verse: Hebrews 12: 1-2. The Convention Goal Statement is "Looking to Jesus, we run the race set before us and proclaim the joy of the Lord." Joy indeed! For all of us who are blessed to be attending the Convention, the Objectives for the four days will be to focus on Jesus through God's Word and Sacrament, to joyfully celebrate our salvation with song and prayer, and to serve our neighbors through witness and mission.

The LWML National Convention always offers many opportunities to socialize, to sing...and to shop! I encourage each of you to take some time to visit the National LWML store that will be a highlight at the Convention. What a great opportunity to purchase some gifts for upcoming special events.

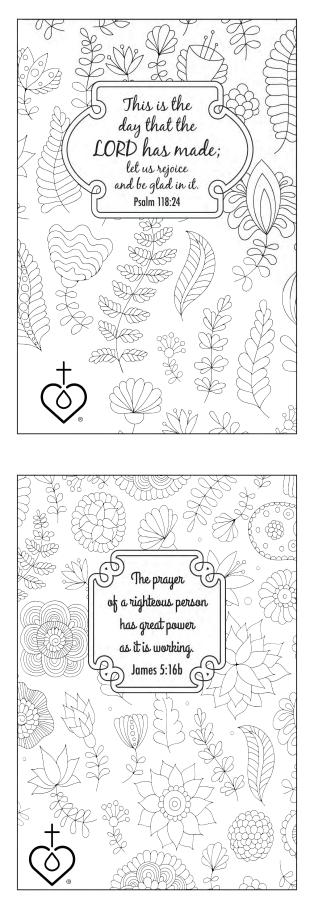
Just a little "tickler" of what you may find new at the LWML store... If you are looking for a new devotion or Bible Study, may I recommend the Bible Study, A Missionary? Me? By Karol Selle, which includes eight reflections written by women serving in the mission field? Each

includes a reference to a Bible character, and discussion questions designed to encourage a deeper study of God's Word. This study sells for \$4.00. For a new devotion, perhaps you might enjoy Devotions For All Seasons, which sells for \$2.99, and is a collection of 20 devotions reflecting on God's continual blessings. Mustard Seeds are available for \$1.50, and include such topics as love, laughter and lullabies, faith-filled parenting, and comfort from the Psalms, Mustard Seeds are a vibrant tool for Christian growth and Gospel sharing and they are easy to slip into your pocketbook for travel...and perhaps to hand out on your plane ride home! There are always new and interesting items for purchase at the Convention store. A set of six notecards with the "We Are His" logo on front is available for \$6.00. Or how about a bag of 50 individually wrapped chocolate mint candies with the LWML logo on the wrapper for \$9.50/bag? "We Are His" lined notepads are available for \$3.00, a dual pocket silicone phone wallet with the LWML logo on the front costs \$4.00. Look for popsocket grips for your phone, mood cups that change color to purple when cold liquid is added, and measuring cups, aprons, and potholders for the kitchen! It would appear that purple plaid joins the fashion palette for many new items: a plaid fleece scarf, a plaid LWML flannel blanket. There's also lots of bling included at the jewelry counter.

As you can see, plenty of shopping will be available at the 2021 LWML National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky or online at *lwml.org*.

Until next time...





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