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Hope, courage, relevance, faith, and perseverance are some of the themes touched on in this issue of the Tidings. Easter is such a time of hope; we see it in the words of Jesus as well as God's creation that is blooming around us. Worship, prayer, and being in God's word are continually relevant as we step out into the world again and resume living our lives. With courage, we have persevered through the challenges of the past year and our faith has grown in spite of those challenges. Alleluia!

Please take note that we are still collecting Mites and paying for Mission grants at a steady pace. We added another paid in full to our grants and we were happy that the programs at Lutheran Valley Retreat and Interns for Navajo will continue this summer. Amy Schultz, vice president of Gospel Outreach, wants to remind everyone that Mission Grant Proposal submissions for the 2022-2024 Biennium are due November 1, 2021. The forms may be accessed on the LWML RMD website.

Look for messages from our president, vice presidents, Pastor Schultz as well as the calendar of upcoming events, the dates and locations for Fall Rallies, and a registration form for our first LWML RMD Fall Retreat in September. We will also be starting a new zoom Bible study entitled *Steps of Faith* in May.

We look forward to the National Convention in Lexington. It promises to be very uplifting and relevant. We would love to hear stories of what you are doing in your zones or individual societies and how you have persevered, shown the hope that is in you, and stepped out boldly in faith. Oh, and the Event Planning Committee (EPC) is already busy with plans for the 2022 LWML RMD Convention in Albuquerque. Please save the dates of June 3-5, 2022. Watch for more details in future issues.

Have a blessed spring.

Tidings Editor, Sue Giddings

Debbie Yocky
PRESIDENT

*Let the word
of Christ
dwell in you
richly*



*Colossians
3:15-17*

*Biennium
Theme Verse*

Spring is such a time of hope. We see new life emerging all around us as the flowers and trees begin to bloom and the grass begins to green up. As we enter our second COVID-19 spring it feels like we are butterflies waiting to emerge from our cocoons, transformed and ready to fly. With vaccines more readily available and restrictions lifting it seems that we have a glimmer of hope that we will soon be able to resume a more normal existence. But just as a Rocky Mountain snowstorm can make it feel like spring will never come, we haven't seen the last of COVID-19.

Many groups and zones are beginning to meet in person. I am so glad you are gathering together again. The Executive Committee continues to meet by Zoom as travel is still a concern. We are so blessed to be living in a time that allows us to meet virtually and continue the business of the LWML. I was blessed to attend the Northern Zone's Prayer Service, hosted by Christie Peebles. What a wonderful time of encouragement and fellowship across the miles. I encourage you to get together with your Christian sisters in any way you can.

So many wonderful events are right around the corner. I am excited to be representing the LWML Rocky

Mountain District at the Lexington Convention in June. Although there will be COVID-19 precautions we will be meeting in person. Registration is temporarily halted but the LWML is continuing to work with the Convention site to allow more attendees. I am working with our delegates, YWRs, and Heart to Heart Sister Trainer to make sure that all that want to attend are registered. Please keep the LWML in your prayers as plans go forward. I plan to share photos and go live on our Facebook page to share the sights and sounds of convention.

We are also looking forward to our 2021 District Fall Retreat. Deb Burma will be leading our Retreat September 10-12, 2021. Our theme is Be Still, which is also the title of Deb's new book. Registration opens May 1st. Come and join us. Deb is a wonderful teacher and I know you will enjoy your time with her. I can't wait to see you all.

I hope to see many of you at Fall Rallies. It has been too long since I was able to meet with you in person and I am eager to get on the road.

Have a wonderful Spring. Thank you for your prayers and faithful Mite offerings. You are helping to share the Gospel message and God's love with a hurting world.

Debbie

Life in Christ

I noticed that the Easter candy went on sale the day after Easter. It was a bit surprising that they waited that long. Those chocolates, which were found hidden in plastic Easter eggs, have all mysteriously disappeared. The weather in the mountains of northern Colorado was absolutely glorious on Easter — even if a bit chilly — bringing to mind the beginning of another Spring. But even the weather seems to have already forgotten about Easter and Spring, given the snow that keeps falling. It may seem like Easter has come and gone; a day long anticipated, but that passes by with the bat of an eye.

But that's not so in church! The Easter Season lasts 49 days: from Easter Sunday until Pentecost, which is 50 days after Easter. For seven weeks — which is sometimes known as a *week of weeks* — Christians celebrate Christ's victory over sin, death, and the Devil for us and our salvation. For 40 days after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to many people: first to the women at the tomb (Matthew 28:9) His disciples in the upper room (John 20:19-31); two men traveling on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35); the

disciples on the beach (John 21); a group of 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:6); and His disciples again when He ascended into heaven (Matthew 28:18-20).

So far this Season of Easter, we have heard some of these post-Resurrection appearances. We have also heard some of the promises that Jesus made before His crucifixion: that Jesus is our Good Shepherd; that He has come to lay down His life for us; and that because of what He has done for us, we will live forever with Him.

That is what this Season is all about: New Life in Christ. Jesus Christ has taken us, poor miserable sinners that we are, and given us life everlasting. He has freed us from our bondage to sin; rescued us from the power of the devil; and promised us that He will not leave us dead, but will bring us through death to live eternally with Him.

It is for this reason that we'll keep saying it again and again:

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Pr. Jonathan G.
Schultz

SENIOR PASTORAL
COUNSELOR



Beth Nagy

GOSPEL OUTREACH
COMMITTEE MEMBER



Interns Return to Shepherd of the Valley

The Intern Program is on for this summer! Pastor Tim Norton and his family have continued to serve the Navajo Nation at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Navajo, NM throughout the pandemic. The Reservation has had even tighter restrictions than many places in the United States — including very few opportunities to worship in person — and has been heavily hit by the COVID-19 outbreak. But now as things very slowly open back up, Pastor Norton reports that the church will again be served by a summer intern.

The Navajo Nation is the largest Native Nation by both population and geographic size — 25,000 square miles (the size of West Virginia)! The long-term goal of this mission at Shepherd of the Valley is to “train Navajo leaders who can plant churches and demonstrate Christ’s love to their own people, in their

own communities, across the expansive Navajo Nation.” (see www.lutheranindianministries.org/navajo-reservation-nm) Prior to the pandemic, interns have come each summer to help with VBS, prison devotions, sports camps, and generally assisting the ministry among the community. While this summer may look a little different, the message shared is the same: *Jesus, your Savior, loves you.*

Please keep the Norton family in your prayers as they continue to share the Good News with their community. We as a district are pleased to have Heidi Norton attend the upcoming convention in Lexington as our Heart to Heart Sister trainer! God has certainly blessed Shepherd of the Valley and we pray that He will continue to do so.

*Photos on page 8

Mites

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:
\$2,500 | \$2,500

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 | \$3,500

Interns at Shepherd of the
Valley Lutheran Church,
Navajo, NM:
\$4,000 | \$5,000

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 | \$2,500 paid

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

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

\$77,960.28 | \$43,400.28
55.60% Paid

*Bethesda grant removed ...

Courage

I got my second COVID shot yesterday, and I was prepared to be sick with side effects. Blessedly, I felt fine. My kids and I were discussing whether or not to go to church. My son wanted a day off, since I had already arranged for our absence. My daughter spoke up about how we need to go if I'm not sick, to keep the Sabbath holy. I would like to take credit for her outlook (*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it* – Proverbs 22:6) but it wasn't all me. Only God can reinforce us to have courage. Even Professor Dumbledore, in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by JK Rowling said, "There are all kinds of courage. It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends." My daughter shocked me with her courage to stand up to her brother for what was right.

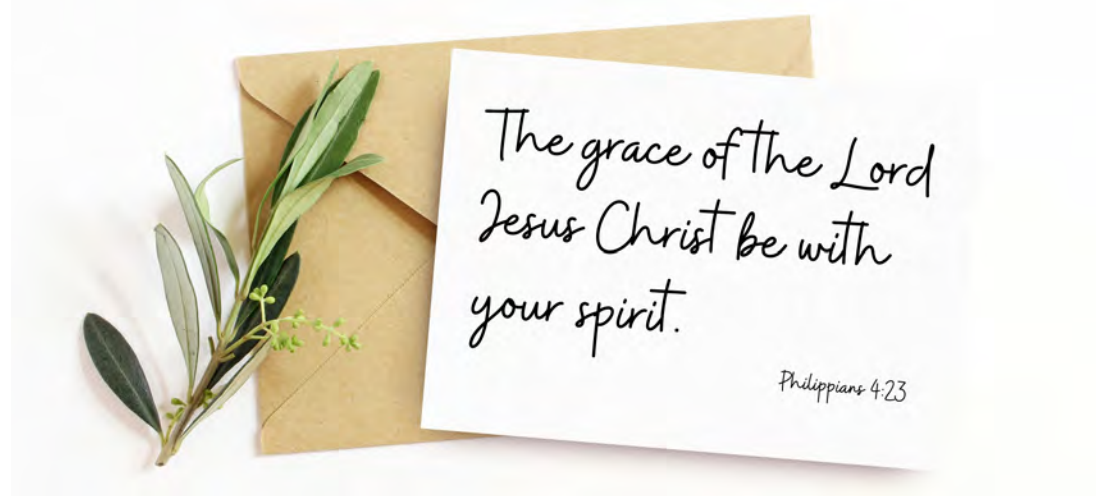
Dietrich Bonhoeffer showed the same courage. He was a Lutheran pastor during WWII and was eventually executed for speaking out against the Nazis, and suspected of being part of a plot to kill Hitler. Would we all have had the same courage to stand up for what was right? I'd like to think so, but we can't really be sure. That's why we have to rely on God to give us courage to do His will. The military has a saying, that there is "a fine line between bravery and stupidity." This is how the world sees us Christians: why would we stand up for our beliefs when it is so obviously a "losing" battle? We have courage and hope though, because we have the assurance from our Savior that we are not on the losing side after all!

He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Connecting

When was the last time someone crossed your mind and you did something — called or texted, sent an email, mailed a postcard or letter. Too often we let the thought cross our mind and that's the end of it. We turn back to the focus of our day and

our challenges. I want to challenge each of us (myself included) to do something different the next time someone crosses our mind, that is to connect with them in some way — it might make all the difference in their day (and yours).



Shelley Stewart
SERVANT RESOURCES
VP



Tanya Hall
COMMUNICATIONS VP



Beth Weber

GIFTS OF LOVE
ADVOCATE



And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee." (Matthew 21:10-11)

This is the question that every missionary hopes to hear. Through the Word proclaimed, through works of mercy, in acts of love, the hope is that peoples' hearts would be stirred by the Spirit to simply ask, "Who is this?" That is when they can boldly declare that this is Jesus, and then tell the wonderful story of God's salvation for the world in Jesus Christ. The Gifts of Love ministry seeks to support the work of the LWML aimed into the future, so that missionaries of today and tomorrow can keep doing what they have been doing: proclaiming the Gospel and pointing people to Jesus of Nazareth,

the Savior of the world. Our counselors stand ready to help you, to answer your questions, and help you find ways to support this work with your present and future gifts. In so doing, "Hosanna!" shall be the cry on many more lips, rejoicing in the salvation our Lord has come to give.

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

Steps of Faith Bible Study

Amy Schultz, vice president of Gospel Outreach will be hosting a new Bible Study from LWML. It will be held on May 17 and 24, and on June 7. *Steps of Faith* by Linda Koch is also available at lwml.org/posts/free-resources/steps-of-faith

approach this as starting a new trip each day while we explore our Steps of Faith. If we think about our faith life as a journey, most will acknowledge we don't know how long the trip might be or what might happen along the way. We do know



In this study, we are going to look more closely at this journey of faith we are all traveling. We will search the Scriptures and spend time reflecting on our individual and collective experiences and the journey ahead. Consider that, while it will be different for each of us, we

we can be confident of our final destination because of the promises of our loving Heavenly Father.

It's listed as 2 sessions, but we're easily going to fit 3 sessions. Christie Peebles is the host again, the Zoom link will be sent out in May.



"Be still, and know that I am God."

Psalm 96:10

Fall Retreat 2021

Retreat Registration & Meal Form

LWML Rocky Mountain District
Fall Retreat
September 10-12, 2021

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp
3056 CR198 Hillside, CO 81232
719.942.4220

Rest in His Word and in His World

"Be still, and know that I am God."
Psalm 96:10

Retreat Leader: Deb Burma
Featuring her new book, *Be Still &
Know: A Study of Rest & Refuge*

General Instructions & Notes

Please fill out form digitally or
print in black or blue ink.

All lodging will be assigned on a
first come, first served basis.

Cost is for Friday and Saturday
nights and includes linens and
four meals. Cost for room and
board includes tax.

Bathrooms are located in the
building for the Lodge and ADA
Cabin; otherwise, bathrooms
are located in the nearby shower
house.

Registration period is May 1—
August 1, 2021. NO refunds after
that date.



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Dietary Considerations _____

REGISTRATION

Registration\$ 25.00 \$ _____

Lodge\$ 142.57 \$ _____

ADA Cabin\$ 142.57 \$ _____

Cabin (unattached bathroom)\$ 95.53 \$ _____

Friday Evening Dinner\$ 11.01 \$ _____

Total for Registration, Room, and Board \$ _____

MAILING

Make checks payable to: LWML RMD

Mail this completed form and your check to:

Colleen R. Spahr, Retreat Chairman
1917 Eldorado Drive
Superior, CO 80027

303.829.3251
retreat@lwmlrmd.org



From Messiah Grand Junction to Navajo, N.M.

Even during the pandemic, the Lord has sent helpers to Shepherd of the Valley in Navajo, N.M as they are able to come, and with other gifts in kind. They are especially thankful to the ladies at Lutheran Church of Messiah in Grand Junction, CO, who sent the Christmas program costumes made for the Navajo, even though the ladies from Messiah were unable to personally come serve on the Reservation.



St. Paul's Durango Hosts Drive By Event

The Women in Mission at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Durango put on their warm clothes, LWML aprons, and offered root beer floats to anyone who would brave the snow, hail, thunder, and lightning! Despite the weather, a fun time was had by all! We also got the blessings of precipitation.

Leftovers will have a place at an upcoming coffee fellowship.





Fall Rallies

Pecos	Hobbs, NM	Grace	September 18
Southern	Colorado Springs	Holy Cross	September 18
Four Corners	Gallup, NM	Trinity	September 25
Northeastern	Wray, CO	Calvary	September 25
South Central	Bailey, CO	Shepherd of the Rockies	October 2
Western	Gypsum, CO	Messiah	October 2
Rio Grande	Alamogordo, NM	Trinity	October 9
North Central	Lakewood, CO	Bethlehem	October 16
N. New Mexico	Edgewood, NM	Good Shepherd	October 30

Upcoming Events

May 1	Registration opens for the Fall Retreat at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp
May 17	Steps of Faith Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
May 24	Steps of Faith Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
June 7	Steps of Faith Bible Study at 7:00p.m.
June 24-27	LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky



The Revelation of Relevance

Well, we made it. We have now gone holiday to holiday in this pandemic. You may remember last year in March when we first went into “lock down” and I’m sure I wasn’t alone in saying, “Well, they can’t call off Easter” and well, ya, they kinda did. We have made it an entire rotation of the church calendar with a world wide sickness among us. If anything, I think it shows how God’s Words, God’s Promise is still just as valid today, as it was a year ago, as it was when the writers were first inspired. It’s relevant.

As a member of the Christian Life Committee, one topic we are discussing is the worship service for our District Convention next Summer. And as always, when planning a worship service, music comes up. Should it only be hymns....then which hymnal? TLH, The Blue Book, The Lutheran Service Book? Should we have live music or “canned” music as my Grandfather would have called it. Should it be more contemporary? Should we have a band? Should we, should we, should we?

Here in Grand Junction, Colorado, we have been able to worship in person for some time now. Last year, our twin daughters went through the Rite of Confirmation in a private ceremony. No singing. Private due to limited numbers allowed, so each family had their own service. This year we were able to see several of our youth take their first Communion on Palm Sunday. Both ceremonies were just as valid as the other, regardless of the style of the service. Was the Word present? Were the elements Blessed? Did the girls wear appropriate shoes? They were white, does it matter if they were canvas? So I had a revelation. The “look” doesn’t matter. The everything just right, and “perfect” doesn’t matter because after all, who are we trying to fool? In the words of Jesus in John 7:24, *Do not*

judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.

How do we approach the Altar of the Lord? Broken. Sinful. Dirty. Imperfect. Yet he accepts us there, at His table. So why does the music matter so much?

What is your favorite part about Easter? Is the beautiful lilies that may adorn your church? Is it bringing back the Alleluia’s? How about the trumpets, horns, flutes and choirs singing? Did you have it this year? Did you have the revelation of, “Wow! I really miss the special music!” Yet, at the same time, shouted out, “HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!!!”

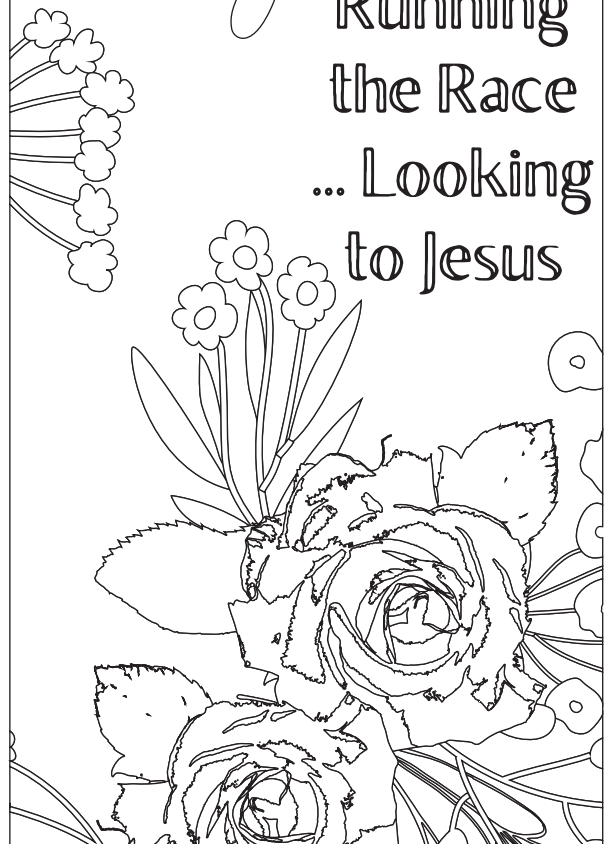
Every generation tries to make it’s mark and bring a little bit of newness to the world. All the generations before try to hold on to what they deem sacred. Somewhere in between there is a cry to stay relevant. Somewhere in between there is a cry to keep a strong hold on tradition. All the while, the revelation stays the same. King of Kings. Lord of Lords. He is relevant. The Alpha and the Omega. The Crown has turned from thorns to glory. That is relevant. It is my hope and prayer that in all forms of worship, all styles of music, the revelation of relevance of music is offered up and sung from the heart, as the beautiful worship of our Creator is masterfully received and pleasing to Him. Keeping the main thing the main thing- Pastor Golter’s words, not mine, help remind me to keep the cross relevant. The work done there that gives us all victory is truly what we shall lift up our voices to, regardless of the “type” of sound we make.



Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus



Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus



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