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Lutheran Women's
Missionary League
Rocky Mountain
District

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Tidings

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As the remaining months of 2020 unfold, we wonder what plans to make and if things will go as planned. We look around for answers when we just need to Be Still as our 2020 convention theme entreated us. In our first of the new biennium issue of *Tidings*, you will find inspiration from our LWML RMD president, Debbie Yocky, as well as our vice presidents who make us aware of all the ways LWML lives out its mission in the Rocky Mountain District. You will see dates for gatherings in our zones as well as photos from our most unusual convention webinar. Be sure to consider volunteering for an office or committee at the national, district, or zone level. Remember the words of Paul as he addressed the church at Colossæ: *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...*(Colossians 3:15). Amen.

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The National LWML encourages you to prayerfully consider names for elected offices and nominating committee nominees. The postmarked or digital deadline for National LWML positions is August 15, 2020. Nomination forms need to be signed by President Debbie Yocky prior to the deadline.

Also needed are nominees for zone offices, committees, and other appointed offices.

Our LWML RMD talents are many and varied, please consider offering your God-given talents during this new biennium. Please prayerfully consider ways you can encourage others by serving in our LWML Rocky Mountain District.

If you are interested in serving, please contact President Debbie Yocky for more information.

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Welcome to a new biennium and a new *Tidings*. The nameplate represents our district — that beautiful blue sky that one finds in the west, the green mountains, the brown mesas, and the space between — as we are together | apart.

Debbie Yocky

PRESIDENT

*Let the word
of Christ
dwell in you
richly*



*Colossians
3:15-17*

*Biennium
Theme Verse*

What an adventure the last two years have been! I could never have imagined the challenges and opportunities 2020 held for us. Having completed our first-ever virtual LWML Rocky Mountain District Convention, let's take a look back at what we've accomplished during the biennium.

First, I want to thank our outgoing officers and Pastoral Counselor Trent Christensen. Pastor Trent, Lesley Nordmeyer, Beth Nagy, Sue Giddings, and Chris Bostron have been faithful servant leaders and have spent countless hours serving with gladness for the last two years. Thank you to each of these special people for being a part of LWML Rocky Mountain District Executive Committee.

During the biennium, we paid our mission grants in full and fulfilled all of our obligations for Mites on the district and national level. Thank you for your faithful mite offerings. We have examined how we do business and amended bylaws to work more efficiently. I have appointed a Financial Review Taskforce to look at our financial policies and endowments. I attended events in all our active zones and maintained contact with our inactive Eastern High Plains Zone. We held Assembly of Leaders training in four zones and shared information from that training at the Board of Directors meeting and all our Fall Rallies. I was honored to represent you at the 2019 Mobile Convention and as a member of the Presidents Assembly in January 2020.

In 2018 the district began using Zoom to hold virtual meetings allowing "face to face" planning on a more frequent basis and lower travel expenses. When the COVID-19 stay at home orders went

into effect, we were well-prepared to continue the business of the LWML Rocky Mountain District while staying at home.

On June 6, 2020, we met for convention in our homes and churches. We elected new officers, approved a new mission goal, selected new mission grants, and amended the bylaws. All the things we have always done — just in a new way. Thank you to all the candidates on the ballot. Thank you to our delegates who participated in online forums, asked questions, and voted in record numbers. You gathered around your computers alone and in small groups to view our convention webinar. What a unique experience! It was not the convention we had planned but with the use of technology we were able to gather together.

What now? How do we continue to meet the challenges ahead? How do we stay connected when we must stay apart?

I am meeting with our newly elected and outgoing officers to facilitate a smooth transition and appointing committee members to begin the work of the new biennium. I have appointed members to our new Event Planning Committee and writing directives to guide our procedures and policies. I look forward to meeting with this committee soon and starting the planning process for our 2022 Albuquerque convention.

Although we had hoped to meet in person, due to continued COVID-19 concerns, the Executive Committee will meet via Zoom for our July 11th transition meeting. We are following state and local guidelines to ensure the

Continued on page 8.

It was such a joy to see all of you at our LWML RMD Convention in Keystone, Colo. last month! The smiling faces, the wonderful singing, gathering around the Word of God, enjoying the fresh mountain air...

Oh, wait. It didn't quite happen that way. Instead, delegates voted by mail and we gathered virtually for a shortened convention meeting for a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon.

The program was different, but the work was much the same. We still gathered under the theme of "Be Still." Delegates selected Mission Grants to support for the next biennium and elected new officers. We had a "Mites in Action" speaker; heard from District and National LWML leaders; received words of encouragement from our LCMS RMD President, Pastor Schlechte; and had a brief Bible Study. Throughout our time together, God's Word was spoken, proclaimed, and heard.

The Word of God is central to our life in Christ. It is God's Word which brings us to faith, that convicts us of our sins, and grants us the forgiveness that Jesus won for us on the cross.

In Isaiah chapter 55, God speaks to us about His Word.

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10-11).

God's Word is efficacious — that is, it does what it says, and accomplishes His purposes.

In the past few months, pastors and congregations have had to quickly adjust to changing circumstances regarding worship services. Since the Word is central to our life in Christ, we found ways to share that Word with members and non-members alike while we were unable to gather. The Word was shared through written devotions; audio recordings; videos of services recorded in empty sanctuaries — or, in some cases, in living rooms; and communicated in all sorts of ways to bring the Word of Truth to bear upon the lives of God's people.

And as God spoke through the Prophet Isaiah, that Word continues to work in our lives. In these challenging days when it is difficult to gather together for worship, I encourage you to stay connected to your Church in whatever ways you can. Your pastors and congregations care for you, and they want to make sure that you are being fed with God's Word even when we are apart. Pray for your pastors and their families, and encourage them in the work that they do. Pray for the members of your congregation as well. May the Lord continue to bless us through His Word!

Pr. Jonathan G. Schultz

SENIOR PASTORAL
COUNSELOR



My word
will not return
to me empty
but will
accomplish
what I purposed.
Isaiah
55:11

Amy Schultz
GOSPEL OUTREACH
VP



Mites

Remember to
send mites to
our treasurer:

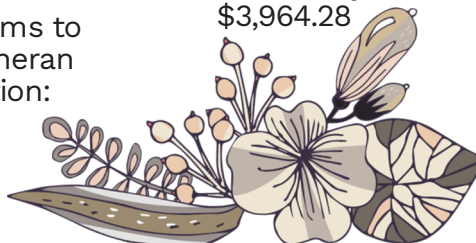
Yvonne Steeby
LWML RMD
TREASURER
PO BOX 1657
Alamogordo, NM
88310

It is so exciting to share our new 2020–2022 Mission Grants with you! We have grants that reach out with the Gospel through mercy work such as meals, camp fees, training, and resources. There are grants that help meet the needs of college and seminary students. Some grants will provide the Word of God in different languages and others will support outreach ministries

to a variety of cultures. Over 60% of our Mission Grants are within the Rocky Mountain District and others reach world-wide. If you'd like more information about each grant, please visit our website (lwmlrmd.org/missions) for descriptions of each Mission Grant. Please keep all these ministries in your prayers.

LWML Rocky Mountain 2020–2022 Mission Grants

1. Kingdom Kids' Camp at Lutheran Valley Retreat: \$5,000
2. Concordia Theological Seminary Food & Co-op Financial Assistance: \$8,000
3. God Cares About You – "Children's Weekend Food Bag Ministry": \$8,000
4. Mercy Meals of Colorado Springs: \$5,000
5. Interns at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Navajo, NM: \$9,000
6. Support for University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder, CO: \$8,000
7. Introducing Muslims to the Savior — Lutheran Heritage Foundation: \$5,000
8. Filling Haitian Tummies Opens Ears to the Gospel — Trinity HOPE: \$5,000
9. Bringing Christ's Light to Those Living in Darkness — Lutheran Braille Workers: \$8,000
10. The Table at Bethlehem Lakewood, CO: \$5,000
11. Faith Connections & Resources for People with Disabilities — Bethesda: \$6,000
12. Reaching the Hispanic Community of Commerce City, CO: \$7,996
13. LWML Global Bible Studies by Donna Pyle: \$3,964.28



This quarantine has been different for all of us. Donna (Pyle) Snow said in her online Bible Study *Overflowing Abundance* that if this time has been a blessing to you, to go ahead and say that. This time has been wonderful for me. I've slowed down, and spent loads of time in the Word and in Bible studies.

We had some really strong winds here a couple days ago, and I was watching the trees blow and thinking about how God has been strengthening my roots during this time. The aspen trees whip around, my apple trees sway, but the big Ponderosa pines barely move. This reminded me of Ephesians 4:14 (NIV): *Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching*

and by the cunning and craftiness of men and their deceitful scheming. It also made me think of an enlightening truth I had just learned in a Proverbs 31 Bible study which is also online.

We all have heard about the “virtuous” woman of Proverbs 31. The word “virtuous” here is the Hebrew word *chayil*. It's a masculine noun that means valor, strength like a tree, health, fitness, and is usually used to describe warriors going into battle. Instead of this verse being something unattainable, now it is more within reach! Even though our world has changed a lot in the past months, we can change in a positive way. I hope this time has been of benefit for you. Slow down and listen. Be still.

Shelley Stewart

SERVANT
RESOURCES VP



LWML Rocky Mountain District communications team is always working to find ways to connect with you. The new team for the biennium will be continuing that pioneering spirit.

The *Tidings* is posted bimonthly with articles, information, and deadlines — as well as the occasional coloring page or something interesting. The last page of the *Tidings* includes email addresses for your district officers, including zone presidents, and our very own Gifts of Love Advocate Beth Weber. If you're wondering what Gifts of Love is you can contact Beth or check out the video on our website at lwmlrmd.org/gifts-of-love/.

You can connect with the district via email, Facebook, Instagram, and the website. Our Facebook and Instagram pages are public so you do not need to have an account to see the information.

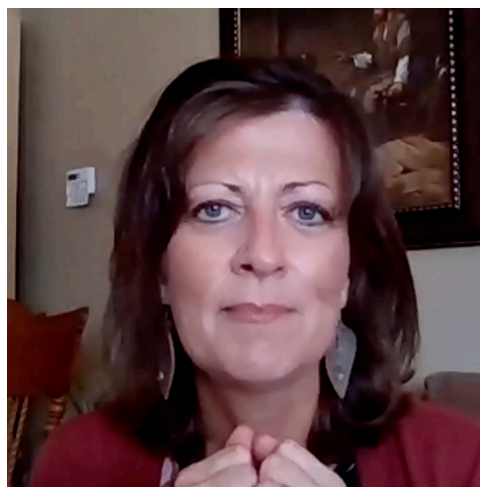
We also communicate through email. We use an email service to send you specific types of messages, such as birthday greetings, President greetings, prayers, and other news. If you've received an email from LWML Rocky Mountain District, you'll be able to change your preferences at the bottom of the email for the types of messages you want to receive. Some emails, such as the President greetings, will go to everyone; others, such as *Tidings* will only go to those who request to receive that email. And for birthday greetings, it's only the month and day that's needed.

We look forward to connecting with you. Send us an email and say hello — which you can send to hello@lwmlrmd.org. Peace and blessings to you!

Tanya Hall

COMMUNICATIONS
VP





This page photos counterclockwise from top: Alamogordo, N.M. Watch Party; Pr. Schlechte; Carol von Soosten; Deb Burma; Debbie Larson; Chelsey Pelzman & Beth Shroff.

Next page counterclockwise from top left: Miguel Muñoz, assistant director of Adelante Ministries, featured as part of Mites in Action Speaker Ysleta Lutheran Mission; Debbie Yocky; Southern Zone Convention Banner; 1951 Convention photo; Behind the Scenes setup during closing devotion (see if you can find the senior pastoral counselor).

Be Still



Lesley
Amy
Shelley

I will make other appointments soon including committee positions. If you would like to serve at the District level, please fill out a volunteer form on our website and email it to me soon. I will be working on appointments throughout June and July. Nominations for National offices need to be sent in by August.

Before we close we want to share a little Mite sketch with you. Insert Mite Sketch

Time has flown by. In his last act as Junior Pastoral Counselor, since he will now be the Senior PC, Pastor Jonathan Schultz will lead us in our closing devotion.

We'll do it. The first ever virtual LWML Rocky Mountain District Convention. I hope to see you in person soon. When we gather for fall rallies we'll be so ready.

to celebrate we may have to change the name to Fall Festivals or Fall Fiestas. Whatever we call them and however we meet, we will celebrate. We'll also celebrate in Lexington with our LWML sisters on June 3-5th and finally at our 51st Convention in Albuquerque on June 3-5th.

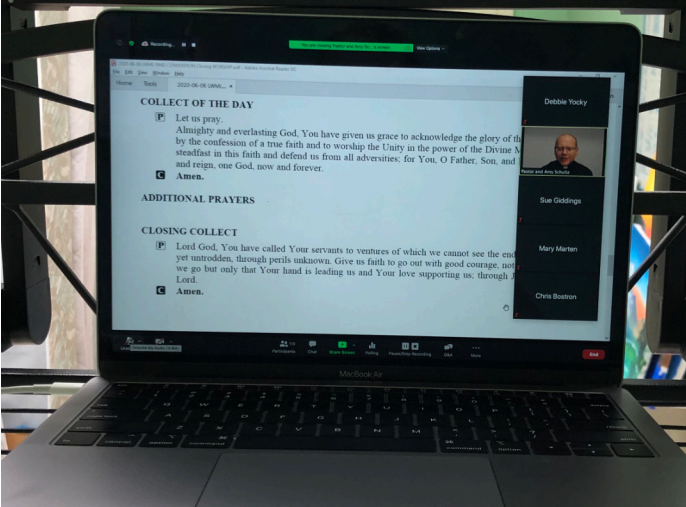
We close our Convention as we began.

In the name of God the Father, Almighty Creator
In the name of Jesus, His Son, our Savior; and
In the name of the Holy Spirit, Who lights the flame of faith and keeps it glowing. AMEN.

God's Blessings!!!



Convention 2020



MAY 17, 1951
Some of the women who attended the J.W.M.L. Convention at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Colo. Spgs. Immanuel Lutheran Church is in the background.



President's article continued from page 2.

safety of all attendees when we choose to meet in person. We continue to explore new ways to communicate information and stay connected during this unusual time. We will be creating online resources for leader development and Heart-to-Heart Sister training as well as offering an online Bible study starting this fall. Watch for more details on the website.

The Zone Presidents and I met recently to make plans for Fall Rallies. We do not yet know how COVID-19 will impact our ability to gather in person. Each zone faces unique circumstances and the rallies may look different in each location as we work to ensure the safety of attendees while completing the business of the LWML Rocky Mountain.

Look for more information about our Fall Rallies in the next *Tidings* issue.

Finally, read the information about our 2020–2022 Mission Grants in this issue and visit the website for more in depth information and updates. Please keep these ministries in your prayers and be creative in gathering mites while not meeting in person. Consider using Joyful Response to have your mite donation deducted directly from your bank account or mail your mite offering directly to the Treasurer. Your mite offerings are vital to our continued support for missions.

It has been such an honor to serve as your District President over the past two years and look forward to our continued journey together.

Debbie

Wow! What a convention! We may not have met in person, but we made history. It was our first virtual convention. And the voters came out to vote. And the convention offerings poured in.

By the delegates vote, we have a new mission goal and budget, new bylaws, new officers, and new mission grants for this biennium. The 2020 bylaws can be found on the website as well as the new mission grants (which can also be found on page 4). New officers include

Christian Life vp Brenda Sima, Communications vp Tanya Hall, Secretary Margaret Blazek, Treasurer Yvonne Steeby, Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Pete Scheele, and Nominating Committee Chairman Christie Peebles.

Convention offerings given as of June 30, 2020 were offering no. 1: \$6,899; offering no. 2: \$3,213; offering no. 3: \$2,613 for a grand total of \$12,735. To God be the Glory!



Around the
District

Fall Rallies

September 12, 2020

- Northern Zone — Trinity Lutheran Church, Greeley, CO
- South Central Zone — Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Aurora, CO

September 19, 2020

- Four Corners — St. Paul's, Durango, CO
- Western — Our Saviour, Vernal, UT
- Southern — Trinity, Alamosa, CO

October 3, 2020

- Northeastern — Calvary, Wray, CO

October 10, 2020

- Rio Grande — Mission, Las Cruces, NM

October 17, 2020

- North Central — Bethlehem, Lakewood, CO
- Pecos — Immanuel, Roswell, NM

October 24, 2020

- Northern NM — Christ Lutheran, Albuquerque, NM.

Brenda Sima

CHRISTIAN LIFE VP



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as the members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another, with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him Colossians 3:15-17.

The LWML theme for the new biennium could not be more applicable to our circumstances in mid-2020. Our lives are affected daily by the effects of COVID-19. Hunger, job loss, suicide, financial distress, loneliness are taxing our country and world. Many of our churches have had to literally shut their doors, and are finding it challenging to continue sharing the Gospel and meeting the needs of the people in their communities. And in the midst of this pandemic, the LWML Rocky Mountain District looks cautiously forward as we face new ways of communicating, worshipping, serving and in continuance of our Mission.

Our biennium theme expresses Paul's message to the faithful in Colossæ, whose young church had become the target of heretical attacks. The Colossians were relying upon human wisdom at the time. They were holding up false teachers and had strict rules about food and drink, religious festivals,

and other means of heresy. In his letter, Paul tells them that the Christian is complete in Christ. Christ is enough.

Paul exalts Christ as: the very image of God, the Creator, the sustainer of all things, the head of the church, the first to be resurrected, the fullness of the deity in bodily form and the reconciler. Christ is, indeed, completely adequate. Christ is enough.

Our theme states that the attitude of peace that Christ alone gives can be reassuring to our LWML as we look ahead. At this time of unknowing, bitterness and turbulence, can reign. But in our relationship with one another and in our attitudes as we move forward, may we each be thankful that the word of Christ dwells in us and that we can sing psalms, hymn and spiritual songs with gratitude in [our] hearts to God. And whatever [we] do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Beth Nagy

PAST CHRISTIAN
LIFE VP

It has been my joy and a privilege to serve you these past four years. During that time I have been able to attend zone rallies in several different parts of the Rocky Mountain District and get to know many of you. Thank you all for allowing me to serve our Lord and you in this way.

The Christian Life Committee focus is to encourage, equip, and nourish the women of the Rocky Mountain District through Bible study that they may grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

This includes having several video studies available for loan. The Committee will also continue to inform the women of the district about new Bible studies and other resources that may be available for use in their LWML meetings and other gatherings.

A special thank you to the members who have served with me on the Christian Life Committee during my four years: Caroline Powell, Cindy Stahly, Brenda Sima, and Barbara Wertz.



Let the
word of
Christ
dwell
in you
richly

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