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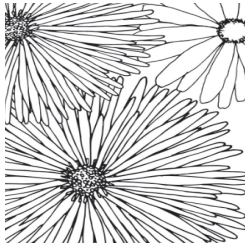
## **NEW BIENNIUM, NEW OFFICERS**

Welcome Shelley Stewart, your new LWML RMD President. She is pictured below in between former District President, Debbie Yocky, and National LWML President, Debbie Larson. Also new are Gospel Outreach v.p. Andi Noblitt, and Servant Resources v.p. Christina Bean.



Also new is Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Duane Meissner. Our Nominating Committee led by Chairman, Sue Frauenfeld consists of members Sylvia Bean, Jo Ann Beegles, Karen Mann, and Barbara Wertz. Their job will be to present a slate of officers for the next convention in 2024. Christie Peebles was appointed to complete the term of Christian Life v.p Brenda Sima who will be moving out of the district.

Inside you will notice that *Tidings* has a new look. The fresh layout and graphics were designed to reflect the biennium theme verse Philippians 4:7 that was chosen by President Shelley Stewart.



Shelley Stewart

PRESIDENT

## KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Convention reminds me of Christmas and Easter. You know how after Christmas and Easter, you are really pumped up and excited? Then it starts to fade. That is how Conventions are for me. When I get home, I can't wait to tell everyone about the Bible Studies, the new missions, the MITES in Action speakers, the intercessions... And then my excitement begins to fade. This year was a little different. As the excitement started to fade, the work began. Being President requires learning a lot of new stuff! But it is also really exciting because I see things in motion I couldn't see before. For instance, I signed the vouchers to send our offerings to Hartley House, God Cares About You, and Ysleta. These groups will be so blessed by the generosity of our ladies! We approved fifteen new mission grants at convention. I can't wait to see these grants in action.

A week after I was elected, I brought greetings from LWML of the Rocky Mountain District to the District LCMS gathering. It was mostly pastors

and leaders in their churches. They elected a new President too, Rev. James Maxwell. I bet his job isn't as fun as mine!

There have been so many people offering me help, prayers, and ideas. It reminds me how much our church body needs each other, needs community. We are so easily distracted, though. I heard it described the other day as not keeping our eyes on the road when we're driving. Your car will go where your eyes go. In the same way, we need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, *the founder and perfecter of our faith* (Hebrews 12:2). When Peter was walking on the water with Jesus, he was fine until he took his eyes off Jesus. Then he started to sink. (Matthew 14:30) In the same way, let's keep each other encouraged and excited. Don't let the excitement fade!

How do we do that? We are planning for Fall Rallies! Get the ladies of your church together and attend one or more! I'll see you there!



*And the peace of God,  
which surpasses  
all understanding,  
will guard your hearts  
and your minds  
in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:7

# REMEMBERING GOD'S PERFECT GIFTS FROM ABOVE

What a wonderful District convention we had. As we remember all the great moments that went on during the LWML Rocky Mountain District 51st Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, we smile and enjoy the memories. We also know that the convention gives us goals to accomplish for the Lord. The convention theme was "Perfect Gifts from Above," from the Bible Verse James 1: 17. During the convention I talked about verse 17 in three related Bible Studies. In this devotional I would like to talk to you about the first part of James 1.

James, the brother of Jesus, is writing to all those who have had to flee from Jerusalem because the Romans came to the Jerusalem area and destroyed and killed all those who tried to defend Jerusalem. These Christians were facing trials and problems that most of us have never experienced unless you have been suddenly forced to leave your home and livelihood because of war or persecution.

James says to his fellow Christians dealing with these horrible situations, *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* (James 1:2-4)

**Count it all joy.** How do you do that when you are forced to move, forced to restart your life, forced to live in a place and among people that are unfamiliar to you? You can't unless

you are basing your life on your faith in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That's right, the only way you can face any of the trials of life is with the sure and certain hope in God; who is in control of our lives through our Heavenly Father; who has saved us from the worst enemy by sending His only Son into this world to live that perfect life in God's love. He gave it to us by His Life, Death, and Resurrection. He also sent the Holy Spirit to be in our lives through His Word and Sacraments to bring us to faith, keep us in Faith and strengthen us in that Faith through God's Sacraments.

That's right, the greatest of all the Perfect Gifts from Above is our faith and trust in God as our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. So, what are the problems that you are dealing with this summer? My guess is that they are not as bad as those being dealt with by the Christians of the first Century and this is what God says to us and them through James the brother of Jesus, *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.*

(James 1:5-6)

Now here's where I have to admit that I am definitely lacking in faith and often doubt. Then I find myself being driven and tossed by the winds of the world instead of standing on the solid

Continued on page 5.



Pastor Pete  
Scheele

SENIOR  
PASTORAL  
COUNSELOR



Andi Noblitt

**GOSPEL  
OUTREACH VP**

REMEMBER TO  
SEND MITES TO:

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LWML RMD  
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ALAMOGORDO,  
NM 88310

## MISSION GRANTS MITE PROGRESS

	Granted	Paid
Fostering Faith in the Forest at Lutheran Valley Retreat	\$ 5,000	
Financial Assistance for CTSFW Food & Clothing Coop	\$ 5,000	
God Cares About You — Summer Intern Ministry	\$ 6,000	
Trinity HOPE — Feeding Haitian Children Spiritually & Physically	\$ 5,000	
Support for the University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder	\$ 5,000	
LHF — Providing Lutheran Books to the former Soviet Union	\$ 5,000	
Worker Wellness for LCMS Chaplain Families	\$ 3,000	
Colorado Mesa University: Outreach	\$ 6,000	
Old Testament Translation in the Bandi Language of Liberia	\$ 8,000	
Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute Infrastructure Investment	\$ 6,000	
Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch — Kruse Memorial Chapel Transformation	\$ 4,000	
Bringing Spanish Braille Bibles to Central & South America	\$ 8,000	
Equipping MOST Ministries Construction & Repair Teams	\$ 6,000	
Cross-Cultural Outreach Ministry Training to RMD Churches	\$ 5,000	
Dominican Republic Disability Ministry	\$ 3,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 80,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

## 2022–2024 BIENNIUM GRANTS CHOSEN

I'm so happy I get to share the 2022–2024 Mission Grants with you! These grants reach from our Rocky Mountain District all the way around the world to spread the Gospel. There are grants that help churches and church workers, grants to help the blind read the Bible, and grants to

help starving children eat and hear the Word of God. Some grants will provide the Word of God in different languages and others will support outreach ministries to a variety of cultures. These organizations are doing very exciting work and if you'd like more information about each grant, please visit our website, [lwmlrmd.org/missions](http://lwmlrmd.org/missions) for descriptions of each Mission Grant. Please keep all these ministries in your prayers.

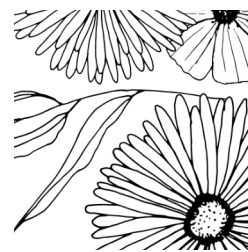


# LEADERSHIP, YOUNG WOMEN, AND TEENS, OH MY!

Convention was a wonderful time to witness all of these things in action. Leadership abounds at convention. Everyone on the district or zone levels that helped to facilitate and plan the convention reveals leadership in different varieties. The zone presidents of the hosting zones had projects that they helped facilitate; the hostesses and chairmen from the zones responded to the call for leadership and spent many hours in the planning and execution for projects and supervision of activities. The committees spent time planning their areas of expertise as well, whether that was selecting mission grants or planning for the young women and teens, and many more. The Executive Committee and Events Planning Committee worked tirelessly

on the details for this convention over the previous two years and all were overseen by President Debbie every step of the way. We also had delegates to help decide on our course for the district, from officers to mission grants and beyond. In effect, one of the times where leadership is demonstrated in such variety is at convention.

I also had the pleasure of meeting the three YWRs and four Teen representatives. Our programs enable these representatives to have opportunities to learn more about LWML as we work together to serve the Lord with gladness. I had a wonderful time at Convention and I hope you did too!



Christina Bean

SERVANT  
RESOURCES VP

*Pastoral counselor article  
continued from page 3.*

rock of Jesus Christ. Oh, I'm sure that there are others that are like me and the Christians of James' time who need to be reminded to bring all our trials to the Lord in prayer. That's why it's so good to remember, *Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.* (James 1:12)

That's right! The trials that we face in this world don't destroy

us, they are there to make us stronger so that we can receive the crown of life that God wants us all to have with Him forever. Which brings us back to the LWML RMD 51<sup>st</sup> Convention theme verse, as James warns us and reminds us, *Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of Truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His*

*creatures.* (James 1:16–18)

So, this Pentecost Season and especially during the months of July and August, remember to let God's Living Water (His Word) refresh your life and make the Son of God (through His Sacraments) be a big part of your life so that you can produce the fruits of Faith to God's creation all around you (that's your family, friends, neighbors and enemies) as you rejoice in all of God's Perfect gifts from above have given you and them. Amen.





# 2022 Convention Memories











Linda Harsh

#### MISSION SERVANTS COMMITTEE

## AN OUTPOURING OF PERFECT GIFTS

Ladies, you certainly gave the Mission Servants Committee a challenge sorting, counting, and packing the mountain of perfect Gifts from the Heart that poured into the Albuquerque convention! Fortunately, the YWRs and Teen Reps along with Jill Clark's daughter-in-law, Erica helped us tackle the pile. A report was ready in time for the dedication of our Perfect Gifts on Saturday.



The next challenge was transporting and delivering the donations to the three ministry recipients. Christina and Sylvia Bean delivered the 272 boxes of feminine hygiene products and 488 pairs of new underwear plus 31 bras and 26 pairs of socks to the

Hartley House, a shelter for battered women in Clovis, NM. Germán Montiel, director of God Cares About You and Al Koschmann, GCAY Board Member made several trips picking up the 898 hygiene kits and 632 Children's Bible Story books donated to their ministry to the homeless and disadvantaged in Albuquerque's International Zone. (See the photo with the boxes of kits and books received at GCAY.) Several vehicles were packed with 601 new toys and 219 blankets (which included the 86 Servant Event blankets) bound for Ysleta Lutheran Mission's outreach on both sides of the border. I breathed a sigh of relief when the final bag of blankets was stuffed into the last car returning to El Paso! Many struggling people will be blessed by this outpouring of love. Pray that the Light of Jesus will shine through these Perfect Gifts.

Thank you for your participation in our Gifts from the Heart Ingathering! It wouldn't have been perfect without you. A special thanks to Servant Event Committee Members, Cindie Corvin and Jill Clark for their energy, suggestions, and support. Another BIG thank you to NM Linda, Linda Ballenthin, for introducing me to ministries in ABQ & NM. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us at the next convention in Greeley. See you there!

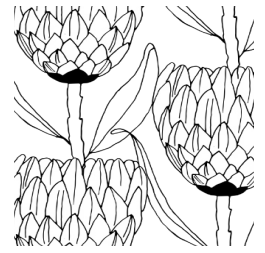


# COMING DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

Who does not love the mountain top experience of a larger gathering of Lutheran ladies?

I know I love the chance to worship together in boisterous song, catch up with old friends and make new ones, to buy some new treasurers from the LWML store (who knew cookie cutters would be so popular), to hear how God uses our mites in action, and to be reminded of the "Perfect Gifts from Above" (James 1:17) that only God can give us. Experiences like the district convention often leave us energized and feeling close to God. It is a feeling we want to last forever! But it fades oh so quickly. Stepping back into the normal routine is shocking to the soul. The stress of work and deadlines loom. Health/financial troubles consume our thoughts. Broken relationships weigh heavy on our soul. Living in this sinful world burdens our hearts. It tries to separate us from the "Perfect Gifts from Above" that

only God can give...peace, comfort, love, forgiveness, etc. So how do we carry that mountain top feeling as we face the valleys of life? We pray. We read scripture or listen to a devotional podcast (check out LWML's podcast in the LWML App). We receive the Sacrament. We spend time in the company of other believers. We follow Jesus' example of setting aside time to spend with God so that we are strengthened to face today's valleys. In the busyness of life, it is so tempting to delay spending time with God in order to accomplish all the things in our list. This ultimately leaves us running on empty both physically and spiritually. But if we prioritize our time with God, we have the strength from God to face our daily challenges and often see His work throughout the day. I pray that you are constantly reminded of His "Perfect Gifts from Above."



Christie Peebles

CHRISTIAN LIFE  
VP

## HOW TO STAY WARM AT CONVENTION

Convention halls can be pretty chilly. Our ladies found ways to keep warm and help prepare 80 plus fleece blankets for Ysleta. Kind of like *killing two birds with one stone*. At the end of the convention five blankets were unfinished and will be cut, tied, and donated to Orphan Grain Train by the youth group at Risen Savior Lutheran Church. Thanks for the great idea, Ashlynn, Teen Representative.



Linda Harsh

MISSION  
SERVANTS  
COMMITTEE



Nora Sotak

## A HAPPENING IN THE DISTRICT

# COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS AND STONE SOUP

Did we take any pictures of our One Day Retreat? Of course we didn't. No pictures to show you the great retreat the Trinity LWML, Alamogordo, NM had. *Count Your Blessings*, is a one day retreat we found on the [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) website. We had Bible study, a sketch, fellowship with our LWML sisters, and

ate Stone Soup! Don't know what stone soup is? Google it, it is a great story about everyone contributing to the soup! Our Stone Soup turned out fabulous! Make your own ice cream sundaes was a tasty dessert! Am I using too many exclamation points? That is because we had a great time with Bible Study, fellowship, and eating a terrific lunch! There is another exclamation point, because a good time was had by all!

# Fall Rally Schedule

## AUGUST

Pecos Zone  
Immanuel, Clovis, NM  
August 20, 2022

## SEPTEMBER

Western Zone  
Grace Fellowship  
Gypsum, CO  
September 10, 2022

Northeastern Zone  
St. Paul's, Julesburg, CO  
September 17, 2022

Rio Grande Zone  
Mission,  
Las Cruces, NM  
September 17, 2022

Four Corners Zone  
Trinity, Cortez, CO  
September 24, 2022

South Central Zone  
Mt. Olive, Aurora, CO  
September 24, 2022

## OCTOBER

Southern Zone  
Rock of Ages,  
Colorado Springs, CO  
October 1, 2022

Northern Zone  
Mt. Hope, Boulder, CO  
October 8, 2022

North Central Zone  
Gethsamane,  
Northglenn, CO  
October 15, 2022

Northern NM Zone  
Calvary,  
Rio Rancho, NM  
October 22, 2022



Two years ago, Marie's husband was called home to Jesus. Bud had always taken care of the financial matters: paying bills, investing, and planning for the future. They had been married for seventy years. Now, Marie was feeling overwhelmed. The financial planner kept calling, asking her permission to change investment strategies. The life insurance company regularly had calling teams contacting her, asking if she wanted to add to her coverage. The local bank kept sending mail asking her if she wanted to refinance the mortgage. The senior living representative she and Bud had met four years ago kept asking if she was ready to move into assisted living. The burden of these decisions was overwhelming. So, when her daughter asked her if she had reviewed her will lately, Marie became angry. "I just need everyone to leave me alone. Stop bugging me."

It is wise to do good planning while both spouses are alive. It is even better to make sure that those plans are written down, detailing an organized, planned approach to caring for the financial gifts God has

placed in your care. It is unwise to expect that children or other relatives will be able to jump in, without any prior involvement, to make the same kind of choices you have chosen all your life. They will lovingly do their part, but you may be asking them to carry out a difficult or impossible task. Planning can bring peace of mind. When a good plan is in place, seeking interaction with professional legal, financial or tax advisors can be seen as continuing that plan. Asking children to help will also be part of that continuance.

Now is a good day to start. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can highlight areas of decision and point you to the right professionals to help you write down a plan, all the while expressing your love for your family and your devotion to the Lord. Contact Carol vonSoosten at:

[Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org](mailto:Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org), Phone: 800-741-4138, or on the website [lwmlgiftplan.org](http://lwmlgiftplan.org); or our RMD Gifts of Love Advocate Elizabeth Weber by email at [weber4342@acsol.net](mailto:weber4342@acsol.net) or on her cell 970-361-0794.



Beth Weber

## GIFTS OF LOVE

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Have you ever considered serving on a district committee? New committees are being appointed now. Committees include Scholarship, Structure (bylaws), Christian Life, Leader Development, Committee on Young

Women, Heart to Heart Sisters, and Teen.

Committees need your new ideas and willingness to serve the LWML RMD.

Contact Shelley Stewart, President or Sue Frauenfeld, Nominating Committee Chairman. A volunteer profile is also available to fill out on the website ([lwmlrmd.org](http://lwmlrmd.org)).



## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

# contact us

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Sue Frauenfeld

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*And the peace of God,  
which surpasses all  
understanding,  
will guard your hearts  
and your minds  
in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:7

# connect with us

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