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BE THANKFUL

In this issue of *Tidings*, we find lots to be thankful for. The colder temperatures, the trees shedding their colorful quilt patterned leaves, the darker mornings and evenings all signal that winter is close by and so is Thanksgiving and the Season of Advent.

As you read through this issue there are lots of articles which relate many ways and reasons to give thanks. One highlight mentioned are the Fall Rallies which have been held in most Zones around the Rocky Mountain District and have been sources of inspiration as well as times for fellowship. We are thankful for and welcome a new Gifts of Love counselor, Debbie Yocky. Most churches have celebrated LWML Sunday in some way. Don't miss a rare look at what happened behind the scenes at our Albuquerque Convention, and a photo of familiar faces from our RMD who attended the Assembly of Leaders. We are most thankful for all of these servants who have stepped forward to serve the Lord with gladness.

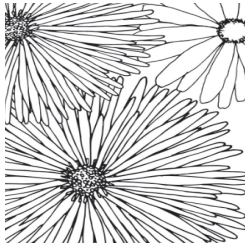
Artists, note that designs are requested for the banner which President, Shelley Stewart, will carry at our National LWML Convention in June 2023. Also, please continue to send in your Mite offerings for our mission grants.

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!*

*Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people,
and the sheep of his pasture.*

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

Psalm 100:1-3,4b



Shelley Stewart
PRESIDENT

SAY THANK YOU

I have really enjoyed seeing everyone at all the fall rallies. This has been a wonderful season and I am very thankful for all of you and your work for the LWML.

This is a season when everyone focuses on being thankful. This is my favorite time of year. Not only is it cooler and very colorful, but it seems even the most disgruntled people are counting their blessings and giving thanks.

As the leaves on the trees change color and the weather turns cooler, we marvel at the display of colors God has given us in nature. I want to point out that this marvel comes to us as the leaves are on their "last leg". They will soon fall to the ground and the tree will be bare until the spring awakening, which is another miracle from our Creator. Even when we think we have nothing to give, God can use us as a bright display of His glory. The leaves didn't do anything, but God did. It's His handiwork that makes them beautiful.

A couple weekends ago our sisters in Canada celebrated Thanksgiving. On The Lutheran Hour that weekend, Rev. Cody Cooper from Canada was the guest speaker. With his

wonderful Canadian accent, he talked about the story of the ten lepers found in Luke 17:11-19. Jesus healed the ten, but only one, a Samaritan, returned to say thank you. In essence, Jesus gave them their lives back. They were no longer unclean or shunned, they could return to their families and their lives. What a blessing! What would you do? Who would you visit first? But only one said "thank you". We can hold this up as an example of bad manners, or we can just recognize how overwhelmed they probably were. All of a sudden their lives changed. Turned totally around. This is what Jesus does, isn't it? He gives us our lives back, turns everything around.

As Christians, we have more than usual to be thankful for. We thank God for our health, homes, and family, but we also have eternal salvation from a God we can't be separated from. *Neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 8:38-39.

Let's not forget to say "thank you".

LET US GIVE THANKSGIVING TO ALL

As we move into the months of November and December we often start thinking about giving thanks or thanksgiving for the year that we have just gone through. God's blessings have been with us in our family, friends, food, drink, house, possessions, and peace. These all come to us because of the Christ child who came into this world to show us how to give thanks; that is thanksgiving to God. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit not only gave us the life that we live in, but the new life eternal with Him because His Son came into this world to free us from the sins of the world so that we can be thankful for all of creation and our salvation.

The word "thanksgiving" occurs 42 times in the ESV version of the Bible and yet it has three different meanings. In the Old Testament and especially in the book of Leviticus we are told how to give thanksgiving to God for the promised savior coming which comes as we receive all that God has given to us with a repentant and thankful heart, mind, and soul. This form of thanksgiving is a sacrifice of an animal to God, which involves a meal that must contain unleavened bread. It was with one of these thanksgiving sacrifices that Jesus gave us His body and blood in Holy Communion to receive with a thankful heart and mind our salvation. Yes, as we come to the table of the Lord in Holy Communion we are at a thanksgiving supper with

Jesus for His coming into this world on Christmas morning and taking all our sins with Him to the cross of Calvary on Good Friday and then rising again on Easter morning.

The second form of the word "thanksgiving" in the Old Testament is found in the form of songs sung to God for all that He had done for the people of Israel and for each of us as He prepares our lives, bodies and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ into this world. Time and again we hear the Psalmist and Nehemiah encouraging us to sing our songs of thanksgiving out to the people of the world so that they will know all about what God is going to do for us and how it will be accomplished. Songs of thanksgiving, that's what we sing not just on thanksgiving day but in all the hymns and songs we sing showing our thankfulness for all that God has done in our life and especially for the new eternal life He has given to us because Jesus came into this world to be our Lord and Savior.

As we move into the New Testament the meaning of thanksgiving once again has a different meaning. Here the word "thanksgiving" is used to refer to proclamation of all that God has done for us. In the Old Testament "Thanksgiving" was an expression of joy for what God would do for us. In the New Testament "thanksgiving" is a joyful response for all that God has done for us and is still doing for us.

Continued on page 6



Pastor Pete
Scheele

SENIOR
PASTORAL
COUNSELOR



Andi Noblitt

GOSPEL
OUTREACH VP

REMEMBER TO
SEND MITES TO:

YVONNE STEEBY
LWML RMD
TREASURER
PO BOX 1657
ALAMOGORDO,
NM 88310

MISSION GRANTS MITE PROGRESS

	Granted	Paid
Fostering Faith in the Forest at Lutheran Valley Retreat	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Financial Assistance for CTSFW Food & Clothing Coop	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
God Cares About You: Summer Intern Ministry	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,000
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	
LBT: 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	
LBW: Bringing Spanish Braille Bibles to Central & South America	\$ 8,000	
Equipping MOST Ministries Construction & Repair Teams	\$ 6,000	
POBLO: Cross-Cultural Outreach Ministry Training to RMD Churches	\$ 5,000	
Dominican Republic Disability Ministry	\$ 3,000	
TOTAL	\$ 80,000	\$ 13,000

MISSION GRANT UPDATE

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Of the many things we are thankful for are our ministries. This includes the University Lutheran Chapel which is a

campus ministry congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, serving the students, faculty, staff, and community of the University of Colorado with the gifts of Christ's Word and Sacraments. For more information on this organization, you can visit <https://www.universitylutheranchapel.com>. We thank God that we were able to approve a grant of \$5,000 for this important work!

WELCOME TO FALL!

Everyone is so excited about pumpkin spice lattes, leather jackets, and boots...or maybe it's just me. The other thing that people think about this time of year is giving thanks. You may be wondering, "what can I do to give thanks this season?"

How about giving thanks for all His gifts to us? How about giving thanks for the church workers that nurture us? How about giving thanks for the women around you who contribute through LWML? Everyone has different gifts, and therefore we are able to serve in different ways at different times in our life. What are some different ways to thank and encourage those around you? Encourage your teens and young women during this

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

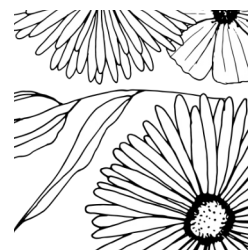
As one year draws to a close and another one begins, we have a lot going on. There is a never-ending list of things to do, places to go, people to see, and parties to attend. We often go, go, go until we are utterly exhausted in body, mind, and soul. In the midst of the hustle and bustle, it is hard enough to stop to catch our breath, let alone stop to rest. Likewise, as the holidays approach the brokenness in the world around us and in ourselves often comes into sharper focus reminding us of our failures, of longed for or broken relationships, and of loved ones no longer with us. So we fill our days with so much stuff in order to ignore or drown out the brokenness.

season! Check in on them, thank them for everything they do, and see if they need any mentorship or guidance. Ask them if they have any questions about LWML that they haven't asked yet. (I bet there will be some.) Leaders, thank your members, pastoral counselor, and officers for their contributions. You can write them a note, a text, or an email, or talk to them in person! Maybe your group would even want to organize a service project to give thanks to the community, by collecting food or something else to give back in some way.

A BIG thank you to every one of you for everything you do for the LWML and for your local church and community!

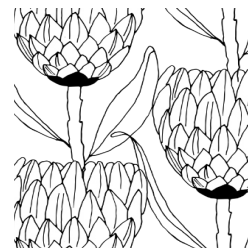
Be still, and know that I am God, Psalm 46:10a. God offers us rest, healing, and restoration. His word and sacrament comfort us with reminders of how He relentlessly pursues a relationship with us, how He restored that relationship, and how much He loves us. In this season, I pray for times of stillness in your life to talk with God, to hear His word, and to be restored by His body and blood. Find comfort and awe in the fact that the God who created the stars, the mountains, and the flowers also created you.

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. Psalm 46:10



Christina Bean

**SERVANT
RESOURCES VP**



Christie Peebles

**CHRISTIAN LIFE
VP**



Linda Harsh

MISSION
SERVANTS
COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

AWESOME SOCKS

Did you know that socks are the number one most requested item in a homeless shelter? Many of the ministries we support including Ysleta Lutheran Mission, Orphan Grain Train, and God Cares About You would be grateful to receive a supply of socks. A sock ingathering might be just the project for your LWML group or zone to sponsor.

A father-son team started handing out socks to street youth on the 16th Street Mall in downtown Denver. The father was soon given the street name "Sox" by the teens. Next, Sox Place, a

daytime youth-drop in center was opened. Twenty years later, Sox Place is still a haven for young people who have been tossed aside by society. And it all began with a pair of socks!

This ingathering is as easy as one, two, three to organize.

1. Choose a recipient.
2. Promote it with bulletin and newsletter announcements, and posters.
3. Collect and deliver awesome new socks for your favorite outreach.

Continued from page 3

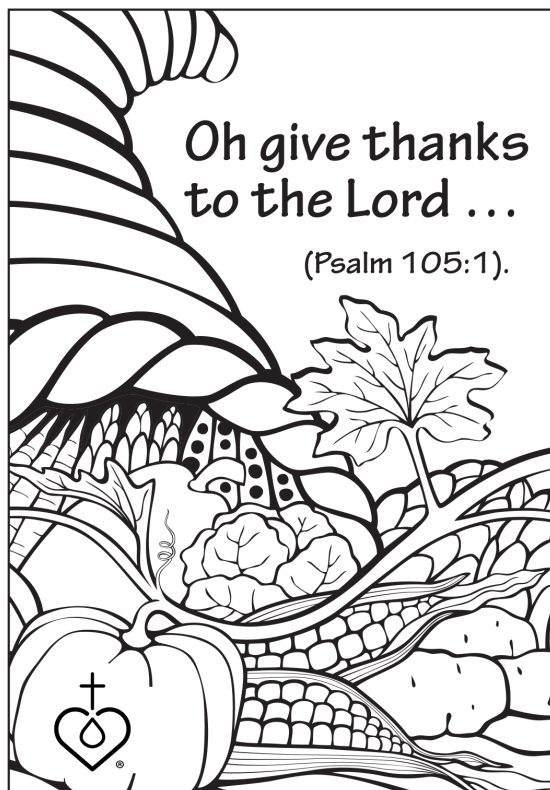
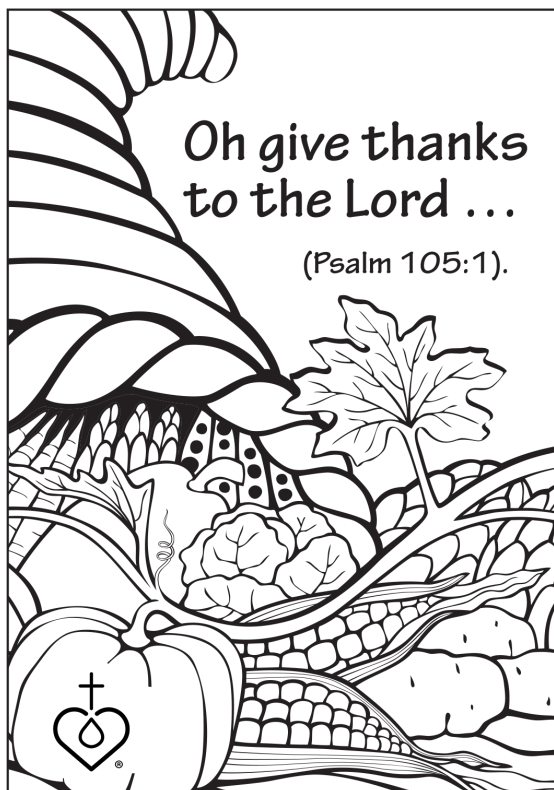
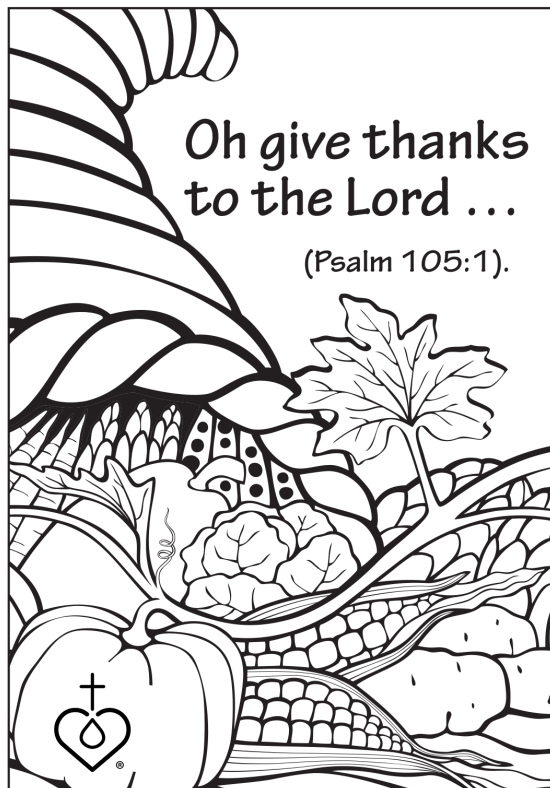
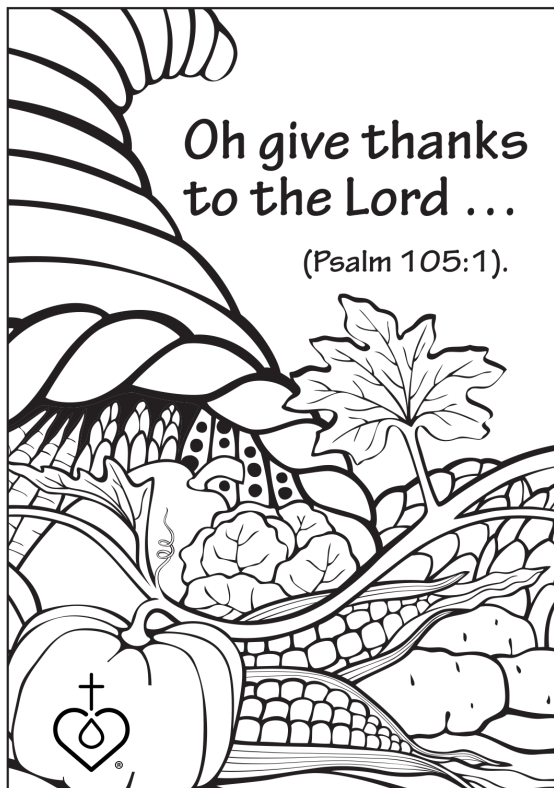
In the New Testament over and over again we are called to express our thanksgiving to God as a way of sharing the Good News of all that Jesus Christ has given to us by His life, death and resurrection so that others will come to know the "thanksgiving" we have come to know and live in this world with a thankful heart.

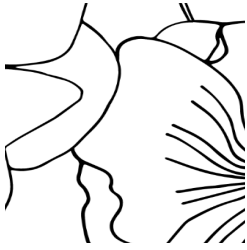
Yes, thanksgiving in the past, now, and in the future has to do with what God has done and will do for us. In its most glorious form, it is giving thanks for Jesus coming into our world on

Christmas morning. In its simplest form, it is sharing Thanksgiving with your family and friends for all of God's blessings. God says to us,

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! Psalm 100:4

For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 4:15





Linda Ballenthin

BEHIND THE SCENES

Many of the societies in the three hostessing zones - Northern New Mexico, Pecos, and Rio Grande Zones - contributed "behind the scenes" to the success of our district's recent convention. The handiwork of so many industrious women (many of whom did not attend the convention in person) could be seen throughout the Marriott Hotel and Christ Lutheran Church. Do you recognize any of our busy ladies?



Emery Board bags were sewn by members of the Northern New Mexico Zone.



In Albuquerque water bottles were labeled by a health conscious group of ladies.



In Clovis, floral hairpieces were assembled for our hostesses.

The ladies at Christ Lutheran Church prepared communion ware for Friday evening's service.



School children who attend the God Cares About You Weekend Program, colored bookmarks which the ladies in the Rio Grande Zone folded and magnetized.



The women in the Pecos Zone painted maracas.

Kudos and thanks to every LWML sister who helped in every way. We are indeed blessed and thankful to have such a group of servant minded women.

FALL RALLIES FINISH UP

Rio Grande Zone Shared by Yvonne Steeby

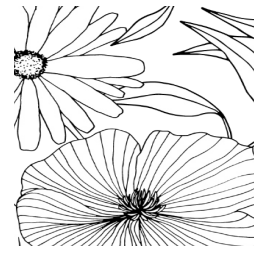
Twenty-eight ladies attended the LWML Rio Grande Fall Rally at Mission Lutheran Saturday, Sept. 17 in Las Cruces. The Theme for Bible Study was *Every Good & Perfect Gift Comes from Above* James 1:17. RMD VP Servant Resources, Christina Bean, represented the RMD EC board and presented the District Report. Also present were Margaret Blazek, Yvonne Steeby, and Nora Sotak.

Newly elected officers for the Rio Grande LWML Zone are: President, Belinda Burmiester; VP, Sue Kelly; Treasurer, Hannah Keller; Secretary, Carol Moore, and serving as Christian Life, Jill Clark. Thank you to the ladies who stepped forward to serve. A baked potato luncheon with a Thanksgiving theme was provided by the Mission Ladies.

Four Corners Zone Shared by Dell Davis

The Four Corners Zone met at host church Trinity Lutheran in Cortez, Colorado on September 24, 2022. Women in Mission from Cortez, Gallup and Navajo, NM, and Durango, CO attended. Pastor Pete Scheele represented RMD. The Rally theme was *Believe in Our Lord*; we have the fruit of belief by being kind, positive, humble, honest, and grateful. Believe spelling isn't an error as the program included a speaker about bees as pollinators of plants needed for life on Earth, as well as creators of yummy honey. Another speaker was from Renew Safehouse in Cortez. The Safehouse was very appreciative of the ingathering of women's personal grooming aids and basic kitchen items. These items are especially helpful for clients moving into new homes, starting over, or needing emergency shelter. The Bible Study was led by Trinity's pastor, Luke Scheele. He continued the bee theme: the bee labors for others and *each tree is known by its own fruit* Luke 6:43-44b.

Thirty-five LWML members and guests were present and enjoyed a wonderful luncheon, a fun puzzle/book exchange, hymn singing, and creating a gift enclosure to take home. The day concluded with the annual business meeting.



FALL RALLY
NOTES





Sue Giddings

A HAPPENING IN THE DISTRICT

LWML SUNDAY

St Paul's Lutheran Church in Durango, Colorado celebrated LWML Sunday, October 2, 2022 . Pastor Tim Norton from Shepherd of the Valley in Navajo, New Mexico led the service. Lisa Weber, when doing the children's message, referenced Pastor Norton's mission work in Africa as well as to the Navajo people.

After the service, fellowship included special ice cream sundaes and LWML cookies. The cookie cutter is available through CPH if you didn't score one at the convention. The recipe that comes with the cookie cutter is delicious!



ATTENTION ARTISTS

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven, he sees all the children of man.
Psalm 33:12-13

The Banner Procession at LWML Conventions sets the tone of the convention by reflecting the convention theme as well as celebrating the artistry of the women in our districts. The goal of the 2023 banner design is to reflect the Convention theme "Lord of the Nations" based on Psalm 33:12-13. All women of our district are invited to submit ideas for our banner.

The design will be chosen at the Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors Meeting in February 2023. Get your creative juices flowing and submit

your scaled, full color design to Tidings Editor, Sue Giddings by January 15, 2023. Include with your design submission a description, how it reflects the convention verse/theme, your name, and the name of your congregation.

The finished banner size is 3' x 5' and should be vertical in orientation. You may NOT use the convention logo as part of your design. The district's name should be included on the front of the design but may be abbreviated as RMD. Please design the banner with light weight fabrics in mind. The banner may be completed by someone other than the designer. Further information will be provided regarding the finished product after the design is chosen.

Herb loves his family. Three years ago, the Lord called home his wife, Betty. Now Herb lives within ten minutes of all four of his children. They are close and do many things together. But one day, Herb was talking with his pastor over lunch and shared that he had concerns about the estate plan he and Betty had put together twenty years ago. At that time, his children were forty years old. His grandchildren were just getting ready for college and most of their estate was planned to support their children, helping them through this expensive time of life. "But now," Herb remarked, "My grandchildren are all out of school. Most of them will make more in ten years than Betty and I made in our entire life. My children are comfortable. But, I am concerned that we are not providing enough financial support to assist the training of future church workers in the LCMS." Herb's pastor put him in contact with

their LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor.

Herb realized that several endowments exist across Synod and certainly at Concordia Universities, to carry out exactly what was on his heart. After doing some investigation, he determined that 50% of his estate would now be aimed at providing funds for some of those endowments.

Financial support of the Lord's work includes gifts now, gifts in the future, gifts spread over time. Your LWML gift planning counselor can help uncover the gift for which the Lord has prepared you. Contact by email, Carol.vonSoosten@lfn.org, Rocky Mountain Colorado Advocate, Elizabeth Weber, weber4342@acsol.net Or New Mexico and 4 Corners Advocate, Debbie Yocky, yockyp@comcast.net



Beth Weber

Debbie Yocky

GIFTS OF LOVE

Beth's cell:

970-361-0794

Debbie's cell:

505-259-4315

ASSEMBLY OF LEADERS MEETS



LWML members met in Saint Louis, October 19-22, for the Assembly of Leaders. Training sessions included podium etiquette, preparation for meetings, sharing your faith story, as well as information on mission grants. The attendees will bring information back to RMD members. They have a wealth of information to share. Pictured above from left is National LWML President, Debbie Larsen, Pastor Duane Meissner, RMD President, Shelley Stewart, Heidi Norton, and Pastor Gary Piepkorn.

contact us

PRESIDENT

Shelley Stewart

president@lwmlrmd.org

CHRISTIAN LIFE VP

Christie Peebles

christianlife@lwmlrmd.org

COMMUNICATIONS VP

Tanya Hall

communications@lwmlrmd.org

GOSPEL OUTREACH VP

Andi Noblitt

missions@lwmlrmd.org

SERVANT RESOURCES VP

Christina Bean

resources@lwmlrmd.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Margaret Blazek

secretary@lwmlrmd.org

TREASURER

Yvonne Steeby

treasurer@lwmlrmd.org

JR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR

Pastor Duane Meissner

jrpastoralcounselor@lwmlrmd.org

SR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR

Pastor Pete Scheele

srpastoralcounselor@lwmlrmd.org

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Mona Book

assistant2president@lwmlrmd.org

ASSISTANT TO THE TREASURER

Nora Sotak

assistant2treasurer@lwmlrmd.org

TIDINGS EDITOR

Sue Giddings

tidings@lwmlrmd.org

PLANNER

Becky Meyer

planner@lwmlrmd.org

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Barbara Wertz

parliamentarian@lwmlrmd.org

CONVENTION COORDINATOR

Chris Bostron

events@lwmlrmd.org

CONVENTION CO-CHAIRMAN

Nancy Kraft & Colleen Spahr

convention@lwmlrmd.org

RETREAT CHAIRMAN

Belinda Burmeister

retreat@lwmlrmd.org

CONVENTION REGISTRAR

Joey Schilling

registrar@lwmlrmd.org

ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN

Susan Avila

arch-hist@lwmlrmd.org

PRAYERS

Janet Krogh

prayers@lwmlrmd.org

SOCIAL MEDIA ADMINISTRATOR

Lori Schick

socialmedia@lwmlrmd.org

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Beth Shroff

pr@lwmlrmd.org

MISSION SERVANTS

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Linda Harsh

missionservants@lwmlrmd.org

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN

TBD

scholarships@lwmlrmd.org

COMMITTEE ON YOUNG WOMEN CHAIRMAN

Lisa Weber

ywr@lwmlrmd.org

TEENS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TBD

teens@lwmlrmd.org

HEART TO HEART SISTERS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Heidi Norton

h2h@lwmlrmd.org

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Sue Frauenfeld

nomcom@lwmlrmd.org

STRUCTURE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Marilyn Grasz

structure@lwmlrmd.org

*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

Facebook
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Website
[lwmlrmd.org](#)

Email
hello@lwmlrmd.org