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JOY

In this season of contrasts, Lent/Easter, Law/Gospel, and sorrow over sin/joy over salvation, joy comes out as the winner.

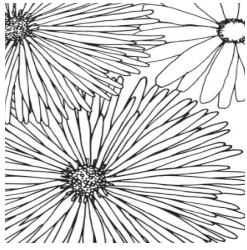
In this issue of *Tidings*, notice the number of times joy is referenced. Sometimes hardship puts a damper on our joy. Sometimes joy comes from activities like serving our Lord, writing, being a mentor, and seeing the impact that our mites have made all over the world. The angel at Jesus' tomb turned fear into joy. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. Open your concordance to see the many references to joy there.

Are you ready to find some joy in the months ahead? Many of our groups will host spring retreats and lenten in-gatherings. You should make your arrangements soon to attend the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee. Information was included in the *Winter Quarterly* and can be found at the LWML website. Join your LWML sisters around the U.S. to *Celebrate the Lord of Nations*. Next, be sure to register early for our own District Retreat in Glorietta, NM. Donna Snow is our Bible study leader, and Trust is our theme.

If you can't attend these upcoming gatherings, watch for dates for your zone's rally in the fall. Also, be sure to save the date for our district convention in Greeley, Colorado, June 7-9, 2024. The Events Planning Committee has been busy dialing in speakers as well as entertainment for the gathering.

Some deadlines to note are May 15, 2023 for scholarship applications. Also, we are still seeking designs for the banner that President Shelley will carry in Milwaukee this summer. Deadline is March 15th.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.
Romans 12:12 May joy be the winner for you.



Shelley Stewart
PRESIDENT

JESUS WINS

Right around the time it was time to write our articles on JOY for the Tidings, my mother-in-law went to the hospital. All of a sudden she had vertigo and couldn't lift her leg to get into the shower. After tests, we discovered she has brain cancer. Twelve tumors on her brain. How can I even THINK about joy right now? My first inclination was to think of Job. Lots of bad stuff happened to him, and he didn't understand why. After sitting in despair after the death of all his children and the loss of his livestock, he wished he hadn't even been born. Even Job's wife urges him to curse God. His friends aren't any better, telling him that obviously he has done something to deserve this horrid punishment. Job refuses to curse God, and says in Job 19:25 *I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.* What does this mean for us? Jesus said it a

different way when He said, *In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.* John 16:33 Basically the gist is that Jesus wins. We don't understand what is happening, but God is still in control. Job questions God, and finally God answers in chapters 38-41 and gives him a "dressing down" as it's called in the military. Job answers, *I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.* Job 42:2 We need to follow Job's example of faith in that, even when we don't understand what is happening, God is still in control, and is still working, *for the good of those who love him.* Romans 8:28

My mother-in-law has been discharged from the hospital and is stable right now. This is a piece of joy I'm going to hold onto and cherish for a little.



SHARE THE JOY

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with FEAR and great JOY, and ran to tell His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

Matthew 28:5 – 10

Many of us will hear these words on Easter this year in one of the most JOYous days of the year. This is the joy of Jesus' Resurrection and this is the first appearance of Jesus after He had died on the cross and was buried in a borrowed grave. The women who had the privilege of being the first to see Jesus after His resurrection were Joanna, Mary the mother of James and others with them. They had gone to the tomb with Mary Magdalene in the early hour of the morning to put spices upon His dead body in honor of Him as their Messiah.

So often the greatest JOY comes after a great fear. During these two months we will experience the fear of our sins as we watch Jesus set His face on the Cross and all that entails. It is the fear of sin that brought Jesus into this world. Not that He committed any sins but we have. Jesus came to take all our sins upon Himself and to give us His perfect righteousness so that

we can Live in the JOY of God's Glory forever in the Heavenly Home that God has prepared for us. The women and all the disciples had experienced many people who were filled with JOY because Jesus had come into their lives and they had experienced the horror and the fear of the crowd that had called for Jesus to be crucified even though Pilot could find no reason for Jesus to be hung on a cross until He died.

Death is not a JOYous time for those who have no faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior. It is often a time of fear and JOY even for those who believe in Jesus Christ because we are going into a situation that we have never experienced. Yet that is what this Lenten and Easter Season of the Church year helps us to be prepared for. The Joy of seeing Jesus face to face just as the women of that first Easter did. Though they had heard Him tell them that He would rise again they had never experienced anything like this. Oh, the JOY of telling others the good news of Jesus' Resurrection even if they think that it sounds like words of nonsense. That's how the disciples responded to the women when they told them that they had seen Jesus alive and touched Him. What a great day of JOY it will be when we all are awakened from our sleep when Jesus comes to take us to be with Him forever. That is the JOY we are called to tell others so that they too can know the JOY of a savior who will take all their fears away and give them the perfect JOY of life with Him forever. Go and Share the JOY!



Pastor Pete
Scheele

SENIOR
PASTORAL
COUNSELOR



MISSION GRANTS MITE PROGRESS

Andi Noblitt

**GOSPEL
OUTREACH VP**

REMEMBER TO
SEND MITES TO:

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

	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	\$ 6,000
Trinity HOPE: Feeding Haitian Children Spiritually & Physically	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Support for the University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
LHF: Providing Lutheran Books to the former Soviet Union	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
Worker Wellness for LCMS Chaplain Families	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Colorado Mesa University: Outreach	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,000
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	\$ 2,000
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	\$ 34,000

MISSION GRANT UPDATE

Psalm 32:11 - Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Here we are in the season of Lent. Waiting for the joy of Easter and the empty tomb. We are blessed that we have the knowledge of Jesus. There are people on Earth who don't yet have that knowledge. Both the Lutheran Braille Workers and MOST ministries are working to share that knowledge with people who don't currently have access to the Word. Our mites support this important work. Lutheran Braille workers are producing 1600 volumes of Spanish Braille Bibles for distribution in Central and South America. For more

information on their important work, please go to <https://www.lbwloveworks.org/>. MOST ministries send workers in the mission field to share God's love with others who either do not know Him or know very little about Him. For more information on this program go to <https://www.mostministries.org/>.

So far in 2023, we have been able to send \$3000 to the LCMS for work wellness for chaplain families, \$3000 to the Lutheran Church and School of the Messiah for Colorado Mesa University Outreach, and \$2000 to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch for the Kruse memorial chapel restoration. We thank God for His love that gives us the ability to support these important missions!

JOY IN MENTORSHIP

Joy is an amazing thing! It can be given and received and can be accomplished in several ways. Mentorship for instance is a great way to both give and receive.

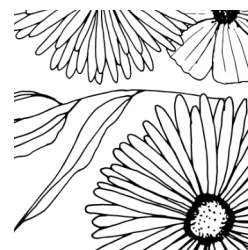
The teen and YWR programs both are centered around mentoring young girls and women and helping them become familiar with LWML.

Mentoring these young ladies can give great amounts of joy, helping them to become part of our LWML family. It also gives you joy as a mentor to watch them grow and develop along their journey.

Mentorship is also a large part of leadership. The joy of helping our fellow women develop in their

leadership roles and their participation in LWML can be incredibly rewarding. Mentorship can be as easy as inviting new members to your group meetings, Zone Rallies, or the RMD District Retreat or Convention. Working with new members to register for and attend these various events is a great way to support them. Also, as a mentor, you can help a new member understand how leadership positions work or lend support to your mentee as she tackles something new.

Helping our fellow LWML women in their service to our Lord and Savior and helping spread His Word are wonderful ways to find joy!



Christina Bean

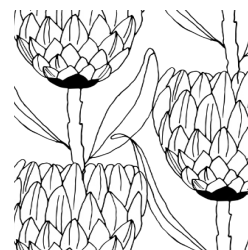
**SERVANT
RESOURCES VP**

JOY IN WRITING

One of my favorite things about being part of the body of Christ is how each one of us is uniquely talented. We each have our own roles within the body! When we use our talents as God designed them to be used, the whole body is blessed.

Has God been calling you to stretch out your wings and use your talents in a new way? Perhaps, you find joy in the written word or you love finding just the right phrasing to convey your thoughts. Have you ever wondered if you could write your own devotional materials? Would you like to receive mentoring in writing these

devotions? If you answered yes to those questions, then I would like to invite you to consider attending the Writer's Workshop which is held at the beginning of the LWML National Convention (Thursday morning June 22). Our district can send one person to the workshop. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please let me know by the end of March at christianlife@lwmlrmd.org just in case I need to decide on who goes. Also, I would be happy to put you in touch with other writers in our district to see if we could get a writers group going.



Christie Peebles

**CHRISTIAN LIFE
VP**



OUTREACH TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

LINDA HARSH

MISSION
SERVANTS
COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

Spring is the perfect time to remember our college students with a little surprise package. A small flat rate box is just big enough to send treats for Easter or a Finals Survival Care Package to students living at home or away. Assembling the boxes is a fun group activity. Here are some pointers to get you started:

1. Apply for a Thrivent Action Card to help offset expenses.
2. Gather names and addresses from your congregation.
3. Print handouts with a list of requested items such as microwave popcorn, packets of hot cocoa, granola/power bars, miniature-sized candy, gum, TicTacs, highlighters, new pens and pencils and money for postage. The postage rate for a small flat rate box is \$10.00.
4. Tuck in a card signed by all the ladies in your group.
5. Don't forget to include a devotional book. CPH has a college devotional; several options are also available through [ChristianBooks.com](https://www.ChristianBooks.com) at reasonable prices including *The Case for Easter* by Lee Stobel and *He did This Just For You* by Max Lucado.
6. Set up an assembly line to pack boxes. Be sure to tape boxes so nothing spills out.
7. Pray over the boxes.

Isaiah 55:11 encourages us to continue spreading the Good News. God declares His word will not return void but will accomplish what He desires and achieve the purpose for which He sent it. Let's spring into acts of love in the name of our savior.





The Lutheran Women in Mission of the
North Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and South Wisconsin Districts
Invite you to the
LWML 40th Biennial Convention
in beautiful Milwaukee, Wisconsin
June 22–25, 2023

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

Opportunities abound as we:

- **Worship** together with our sisters and brothers in Christ!
- **Share** the Good News with everyone the Lord places in our path.
- **Fellowship** with good friends while meeting new ones.
- **Enjoy** accomplishing God's work with LWML sisters and brothers in Christ!
- **Bring** our family and friends to enjoy a city of many cultures.

Milwaukee, called the City of Steeples, is home to the Discovery World Science, Harley Davidson, and Milwaukee Art Museums; the Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, the Milwaukee County Zoo, the Historic Third Ward, and much more.

Come enjoy the cool breezes off Lake Michigan, June 22–25, 2023!





BELINDA
BURMEISTER

RETREAT
CHAIRMAN

FALL RETREAT

The second biannual LWML RMD Fall Retreat will take place September 8-10, 2023, at Glorieta Conference Center in Glorieta, NM. Glorieta pass lies at 7500 ft in the lower Rocky Mountains. To get a feel for the beautiful setting for our retreat, you can go to Glorieta.com and scroll down to Camp Facilities. Samples of the campus meeting rooms, dining rooms, and sleeping rooms are included in this sneak peek at Glorieta.

Donna Snow, author of *Joseph, Meant for Good*, will serve as our retreat leader. Interspersed around the sessions with our retreat leader there will be time to explore the Glorieta campus, which includes Putt-Putt Golf, a Coffee and Snack Shop plus a whole lot more.

Whether you choose to explore the free leisure offerings, the shops, or the glorious vistas laid out before us for a little alone time, you are guaranteed to have a Christ-filled experience.

Registration begins April 1 and ends on August 1. Registrations will be processed in the order received. The Registration form can be found on our website at www.lwmlrmd.org. It can also be found on the following page. Registrations will be made through Belinda Burmeister, Retreat Chairman.

There are some options if we know of a special need, like Gluten Free for \$3 extra per meal. If you have any questions, please contact Belinda by calling or texting 713-419-1692 or by email at retreat@lwmlrmd.org

SCHOLARSHIPS

SUE
FRAUENFELD
SCHOLARSHIP
COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

Did you know?

The Rocky Mountain District LWML offers ten, \$500 scholarships per school year to students attending higher education (college or seminary) with the intention of going into full time church work. The student must be a member of a church within the LWML Rocky Mountain District and may be in any year of their studies.

Future teachers, DCEs, pastors, and deaconesses are all eligible as long as they are attending a synod college.

Applications, references, and transcripts must be completed and sent in to the scholarship chairman by mid-May. The application is found under forms on the LWML RMD website.

BANNER DESIGN NEEDED

LESLEY
NORDMEYER
COMMUNICA-
TIONS VP

Let your creative juices flow as you design a banner reflecting the theme of Celebrate the Lord of Nations. The Bible reference is from Psalm 33:12-13. The finished banner will be 3' x 5'. You may not use the convention logo in your design but should include the district name (RMD) on the front. Please design your banner with light weight fabrics in mind. The banner may be completed by someone other than the designer. Please submit your full color design to VP of Communications, Lesley Nordmeyer, by March 15, 2023. Include with your design a brief description, how it reflects the convention verse/theme, your name, address, and the name of your congregation. lesley@nordmeyer65.com



TRUST

Fall Retreat 2023

Retreat Registration Form

LWML Rocky Mountain District
Fall Retreat
September 8–10, 2023

Glorieta Conference Center
63B NM-50, Glorieta, NM 87535
505.757.6161

Retreat Leader: Donna Snow
Featuring her new book,
Joseph: Meant for Good

General Instructions & Notes

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

Registration period is April 1—
August 1, 2023. No refunds after
that date.

**For double occupancy in the motel
style room only one roommate must
register for the room. Please list
roommates on both registrations.

***Any one wanting to stay together
in the bunk rooms should list desired
roommate(s) on the back of the
registration form. Bunk occupants
must bring their own linens. (towels,
wash cloths, twin size sheets, pillow
and pillowcase)



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Dietary Considerations _____

REGISTRATION

Registration and Meal Plan. (3 Sat, 1 Sun.) \$ 85.00 \$ _____

Motel Style Room (1 or 2 Occupants)** \$ 240.00 \$ _____

Roommate: _____

Cabin with Bottom Bunks **** \$ 120.00 \$ _____

Friday Evening Dinner (optional, require 20).... ... \$ 10.00 \$ _____

Total _____

MAILING

Make checks payable to: LWML RMD

Mail this completed form and your check to:

Belinda Burmeister, Retreat Chairman
11 Ranger Ave., Timberon, NM 88350

Contact Phone:
713-419-1692
retreat@lwmlrmd.org



Shelley Stewart

A HAPPENING IN THE DISTRICT

VALENTINE BAGS

The ladies of Mount Olive in Aurora made Valentine bags as one of their "What's Your 80?" projects. Forty bags were put together for the homeless at *Aurora Warms the Night*, and forty bags were taken to Mt. Olive's sick and shut-in members.



As you can see, it involved a real assembly line of volunteers!



SUE GIDDINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS

The District Board of Directors met on the weekend of February 9-10 in Colorado Springs. It was a great time of fellowship, sharing, and a Bible study of Philippians led by Pastor Duane Meissner. Andi Noblitt shared mission minutes informing the group about our grant recipients. Heidi Norton led an exercise designed to help you to put your faith story into words and Pastor Meissner shared tips for how to evangelize.

Becky Meyer led the group in an activity also designed to assist with sharing your testimony. At the end, prayer partners were assigned and testimonies shared.

Planning is underway for our 2024 District Convention in Greeley, Colorado. The theme is "In His Hands", based on Job 12: 7-10.

The zone presidents gave their reports and Fall Rally dates will be announced soon. Many of our leaders shared activities that their groups are involved in to reach out to a variety of ages and interests.

Two Young Women Representatives have been chosen to attend the convention in Milwaukee, WI. Melissa Anderson from Erie, CO and Rebekah Ferrier from Fort Collins. Both reside in the Northern Zone.

Ministry leaders often appreciate unrestricted gifts to their organizations that allow leaders to apply the dollars to the current pressing needs when received. A danger of such unrestricted gifts is that they can become generic in our minds, and we don't imagine what the benefit will be some day, robbing God's intended response of joy from giving ("God loves a cheerful giver"). However, predicting future needs can be tricky.

Three sisters taught Sunday School for all their adult lives. They loved children and appreciated the chance to share Jesus with them. Their estate plans all included gifts to support the Sunday School. But today, that same congregation is planted in a community where only 1.5% of the people are below the age of 18. You can see how difficult it would be for the congregation to use substantial gifts

for supporting Sunday School when there are no children.

Gifts can be earmarked for certain ministry projects, yet it is always a good idea to include language that gives a ministry the ability to redirect dollars if the planned need no longer exists in the future.

Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you think about the language that makes the most sense for your favorite ministry. Contact Carol von Soosten by Email:

Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org. By Phone: 800-741-4138, or on the web at: lwmlgiftplan.org. Or Colorado Advocate Elizabeth Weber at weber4342@acsol.net or on her Cell: 970-361-0794.

Why not use one of the below sentences in your bulletin during the month of March?



Beth Weber

GIFTS OF LOVE

Possible Bulletin Sentences:

We can discover great joy by thinking of the benefit that will come from the gifts we give from our estates. Family inheritance is often understood as entitlement. That robs the joy. Instead, living in grace, we see distributions to family as gifts. How do you hope the gifts you will give to family will benefit them? Will they free family from debt, enable the start of a new business, pay for college or provide for special needs? Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you to think about the purpose of your gifts. Contact Carol von Soosten by Email: Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org. By Phone: 800-741-4138, or on the web at: lwmlgiftplan.org. Reach Colorado Advocate Elizabeth Weber at weber4342@acsol.net or on her Cell: 970-361-0794.

We can discover great joy by thinking of the benefit that will come from the gifts we give from our estates. Your emotional connection with a current mission activity of your favorite ministry may blind you to the practicality of providing financially for it in the future. A typewriter repair fund set up thirty years ago would no longer make sense. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you work through your thoughts to make gifts that will be sound for the future. Contact Carol von Soosten by Email: Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org. By Phone: 800-741-4138, or on the web at: lwmlgiftplan.org. Reach Colorado Advocate Elizabeth Weber at weber4342@acsol.net or on her Cell: 970-361-0794.

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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

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