A publication of Lutheran Women's Missionary League Rocky Mountain District

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### SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Have you ever struggled to pinpoint your own spiritual gifts? In this issue of Tidings our contributors wrestle with and write about the gifts that God has given us.

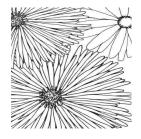
Also in this issue are some interesting articles from around the district. You can see what other groups have been doing for service projects and workshops this spring. Also included are a preview of the 2024 RMD convention and an idea for participating in the National LWML Convention even if you aren't going.

Christian Life VP. Christie Peebles has some resources and ideas for Bible studies to help you grow in God's word. You can also try out some ideas from the Visual Faith Ministry whose website is listed on page 7 along with a Pentecost coloring sheet.

We are continuing to do well with our mission grant funding. Treasurer, Yvonne Steeby, reports that we are over halfway to our goal of \$80,000 by March 31, 2024. Thank you all for contributing your Mites and also for your prayers for our grant recipients. Yvonne says, "Keep up the great work, in Praise to Our Lord!"

Retreat Chairman, Belinda Burmeister has created a great list of frequently asked questions to help you as you plan for our Fall 2023 Retreat. Find registration forms on lwmlrmd.org or in the last issue of Tidings.





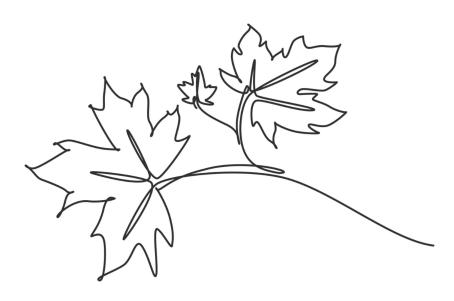
Shelley Stewart

PRESIDENT

### **GIFTS WHEN WE NEED THEM**

Recently in a sermon my pastor was talking about Spiritual Gifts. He suggested that if you were unsure what your gifts were you should ask someone close to you. So, I asked my husband. The answer I got wasn't what I was expecting. I thought he would say something along the lines of being a good leader, a good speaker, musical, a good witness for God... He said that he thinks our gifts are always changing, depending on what God needs from us. I had never thought of it this way, but it makes sense. God doesn't need me to be a good speaker when the job is to harvest the grain. He doesn't need me to be a good leader when I'm not the one in charge. Some of the gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 are healing, the gift of prophecy, and speaking in tongues. I don't have any of these... but I do have some of the gifts also listed: faith, words of

wisdom, and words of knowledge. None of these gifts come from our own efforts. The gifts are purely from God. That's why they are called "Gifts". Don't you think they would be called something like "accomplishments" if we earned them through our own efforts? If God puts words into our mouths, and softens or turns peoples' hearts, don't you think He can give us the gifts he needs us to have at a certain moment? I now find myself looking for these abilities that I didn't know I had, showing up at just the right time. Just when my friend needs a listening ear, I find my schedule clears for that time. I have found myself giving a kind word to someone just when they needed it. This isn't my doing. The only part I'm doing is letting Him use me.



### **GIFTED BY CHRISTIANITY**

What are your spiritual gifts? Many of us have asked ourselves this question before, or have been asked by someone else. Many of us have also taken some sort of "Spiritual Gift Inventory" at one point or another in our lives – a questionnaire designed to help a Christian understand his/her personal, God-given abilities intended for service in His Kingdom. Our minds rightly jump to gift lists in the Bible, such as the one found in Romans 12 as we consider if we have the gift of teaching, or prophesy, or service, etc. There can be great value in exercises like this. They get us thinking about our duties as Christians, and that can certainly be helpful. But, as a seminary professor once reminded my class, they can also be harmful if used incorrectly. This can happen in a number of ways: A Christian might be tempted to predetermine what his gift(s) might be based on what he wants them to be. He might excuse himself from serving his neighbor in a particular way, concluding, "that's not [my] spiritual gift." He might use his gift as a way to puff himself up around other people because it might be particularly unique or impressive. Or (what is likely the most common problem), he may determine that he does not have a special, spiritual gift because he can't identify any unique skill, passion, or ability to put into service.

In dealing with a case of the latter, I'm encouraged by the introduction of the apostle Paul's epistle to the Roman Christians: For God is my witness...I mention you always in my prayers,

asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you, that I may import to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you - that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. Rom. 1:9-12, emphasis added. To me, these verses suggest that every Christian in Rome had something to offer Paul, and it did not matter if Paul happened to be more spiritually mature, have greater theological insight, or possessed superior abilities. In many of Paul's letters we can see evidence of Paul's deep desire to be in the presence of fellow Christians, in no small part for his own spiritual benefit!

What an encouragement this can be for us still today. Without dismissing the importance of recognizing and developing unique talents, resources, and abilities we might possess by God's grace, I might venture to say that the most important, foundational spiritual gift is, quite simply, the gift of existing as a true Christian. It's a true blessing to be in the presence of people who (even if imperfectly) hope with us, love with us, trust with us, learn with us, grow with us, pray with us, and serve with us, all because of what we know we have in common through Jesus. These things don't require anything special - just the Spirit who connects us by faith to Jesus. With that said, I am personally blessed by the mere existence of all the faithful women of the LWML within the Rocky Mountain District, and I thank God for each of you and the spiritual gifts that you are to me.



Pastor Duane Meissner

JUNIOR PASTORAL COUNSELOR

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Andi Noblitt

GOSPEL OUTREACH VP

REMEMBER TO SEND MITES TO:

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

MISSION GRANTS 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	\$ 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	\$ 4,000
Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute Infrastructure Investment	\$ 6,000	\$ 0
Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch: Kruse Memorial Chapel Transformation	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000
LBW: Bringing Spanish Braille Bibles to Central & South America	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,000
Equipping MOST Ministries Construction & Repair Teams	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,000
POBLO: Cross-Cultural Outreach Ministry Training to RMD Churches	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Dominican Republic Disability Ministry	\$ 3,000	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 80,000	\$ 43,000

## MISSION GRANT UPDATE

1 Corinthians 12:4–6 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

Christ has risen. He has risen indeed. Alleluia! What an amazing gift. The perfect gift. Now it's up to us to share this gift with others. The Lutheran Bible Translators are working to share the Old Testament with the people of Liberia by translating it into the Bandi language. The total cost of the translation is estimated to be \$540,000. The LWML RMD is going to support the translation of 8 books with the grant of \$8,000. Half of this grant has already been paid. You can learn more about Lutheran Bible

Translators giving the gift of the Bible to people in their native language at <a href="https://lbt.org">https://lbt.org</a>.

The Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute (LHMI) in El Paso, Texas, shares God's gift by preparing leaders for multiplying healthy Hispanic/ Latino ministries. In the United States Lutheran leaders in Hispanic/ Latino communities are often isolated, without sufficient resources and networking support for their own teaching ministries. Through online classes, classroom instruction, webinars, workshops, and free online resources, LHMI provides theological and practical education centered on missions. You can find more information at

www.missionaryinstitute.org. The LWML RMD is proud to have approved a grant of \$6,000 to support this important work.

### **GIFTED FOR SERVICE**

What are spiritual gifts? Are they limited to a certain set of things, such as writing Bible studies or Prayers?

Spiritual gifts are really any gift given to you by God that you can use to help serve Him.

Leadership, and the many aspects of it, are spiritual gifts. Other gifts include staying motivated and motivating others, the ability to support others, and having math or accounting skills to keep books for LWML. Mentoring the women around you, the ability to stay positive in adversity,

and being willing to view a situation from the other person's perspective during a disagreement are also all amazing gifts. Patience and understanding, love and compassion, technical skills, and a willingness and understanding of how to take minutes are all spiritual gifts that we can use to glorify God.

Please take a moment and consider how many gifts God has given you and how you would like to use them to His glory!



Christina Bean

SERVANT RESOURCES VP

#### SPIRITUAL GIFTS

What spiritual gifts do you have? Do you have gifts of teaching or hospitality? Are you wanting to grow in your spiritual gifts? Have you thought about leading a Bible study, or teaming up with others to lead one, to grow in your spiritual gifts? The Christian Life Committee has the resources to help you to lead a Bible study. We have a wonderful collection of books that would make a great study for your group. Many of these books have questions that can be used in a study. These books can be loaned to you or your group. Here are some of the titles in our collection:

Perseverance: Praying through Life's Challenges by Donna Pyle

Peter...from Fisherman to Fisher of Men by Donna Pyle

Where Love Abides by Donna Pyle

Overflowing Abundance by Donna Pyle

Your Strong Suit by Donna Pyle

The God of All Comfort by Donna Pyle

Love Rules: A Study of the Ten Commandments by Christina Hergenrader

Soul Spa: 40 Days of Spiritual Renewal by Sharla Fritz

Waiting: A Bible Study on Patience, Hope, and Trust by Sharla Fritz

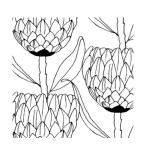
Demystifying the Proverbs 31 Woman by Elizabeth Ahlman

Living a Chocolate Life by Deb Burma

Balance: Christ Filled Living by Kay Meyer

A Work in Progress by Carla Krazl

Interested in one of these titles? Contact me through christianlife@lwmlrmd.org



Christie Peebles

CHRISTIAN LIFE VP

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Belinda Burmeister

#### RETREAT CHAIRMAN

#### **READY FOR A RETREAT?**

The District Retreat, September 8-10 will be held in Glorieta, NM. Retreat registration is now open until August 1st. Below are some FAQ's to help you prepare for the retreat. Find more information on our website. The theme is **Trust**. Donna Snow is our presenter.

## Q1. What time can I start arriving on Friday?

Check in on Friday begins at 3:30pm. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm for those who signed up for the evening meal.

### Q2. Is there an age limit for attendees?

Glorieta requests that all attendees be 18 years of age or older.

### Q3. Will we have the Conference Center all to ourselves?

No. Glorieta will host our group along with other retreats and campers. We will be sharing common spaces, such as the dining hall, shops, and activities.

### Q4. Am I guaranteed my room selection?

Reservations are handled on a first come, first served basis. Get your reservation early!

### Q5. Do I need to provide any linens, bedding, or towels?

Bunk occupants must bring their own linens (towels, wash cloths, twin size sheets, pillow, and pillowcase).

Q6. When will meals be served?

Breakfast is served at 8am, lunch at noon and dinner is served at 6:30pm. We will share the dining room with other campers but will have a designated area.

### Q7. Is there shopping available at the Conference Center?

Glorieta has a coffee and snack shop. They also have a year-round shop for you to purchase Glorieta souvenirs and to pick up anything you might have forgotten!

# Q8. Are there any free activities to enjoy during our free time on Saturday afternoon?

Yes! You can enjoy putt-putt golf, gaga ball, disc golf, and volleyball, etc. Visit Glorieta website: www.glorieta.com for more information about the activities. Don't forget your walking shoes!

### Q9. Will Glorieta accommodate special dietary restrictions?

Glorieta is a peanut free kitchen, but the campus is not peanut free. Gluten free meals are available at an additional cost of \$3.00 per meal. Please include gluten free meal request on your registration form. Deadline is August 1. Please visit with Belinda Burmeister, Retreat Chairman if you need other accomodations.

### Q10. What should I bring?

Bring your Bible, writing utensils, toiletries, water bottle, and snacks to share!

Please direct further questions to Belinda Burmeister, Retreat Chairman. Her telephone number is 713-419-1692. She can be reached via email at retreat@lwmlrmd.org



https://www.visualfaithmin.org

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CONVENTION
COORDINATOR

### CONVENTION 2024 PREVIEW

Chris Bostron reports that the EPC, Events Planning Committee, has been hard at work planning for the Rocky Mountain District Convention in 2024. Meeting in Greeley, CO next year, June 7-9, at the Doubletree, this convention's theme is "In His Hands", based on Job 12:7-10. The Mites in Action speakers will be Pastor Pedro from World in Action Hispanic Ministry, based in the Northeastern Zone., Pastor Jarvis of University Lutheran Chapel in Boulder, and a representative from POBLO, a cross cultural outreach ministry. At the

Saturday evening banquet, we will be entertained by the Apache Creek Fiddlers. Once again there will be 3 Enrichment sessions to attend: Carol von Soosten will present about Gifts of Love, a presentation from a representative of the national LWML, and a hands on activity led by Jackie Marchetti. Linda Harsh is on the lookout for ingathering ideas.

For any of you HGTV fans, Chris also is proud to announce that her home town, Fort Morgan, CO, will be featured on the show, *Hometown Takeover*, starting April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

E-NEWS

LWML CONVENTION CENTRAL

#### MISSION WALK

A popular activity at the convention is the Mission Riverwalk. Funds are raised through pledges and donations for the mission grants chosen at the convention. For those of you who enjoy a nice walk or stroll but are unable to attend the convention, the LWML invites you to do your own walk in your neighborhood, in your church parking lot, or along a walking trail in your town. Consider making it a

whole congregation event and invite everyone to participate in a walk for missions. Just choose a date, a route, and collect donations or pledges. You can find a form on the LWML website, under Convention Central, where you will find the link Mission Riverwalk Pledge Form to use for submitting your pledge.

So grab your shoes and take a walk!

SANDY PETERSEN

### **CONVENTION BANNER IN PROGRESS**

BANNER DESIGNER Sandy Petersen and Marilyn Graff have been hard at work designing and sewing the banner for President Shelley to carry at the 2023 National Convention.

Designer, Sandy, created the idea on her computer but is not a seamstress. So, she is grateful for Marilyn's expertise with the sewing machine. We are excited to see the completed banner.





### **FALL RALLIES SCHEDULE**

The dates for the Fall Rallies were finalized at the April meeting of the District Executive Committee. Please check the schedule and \*Save the Date!



FALL RALLY NEWS

August 25El Paso, TX
September 16Northern ZonePeace With ChristFort Collins, CO Pecos ZoneShepherd of the HillsRuidoso, NM
September 23North Eastern ZoneSt. John'sYuma, CO Southern ZoneImmanuelColorado Springs, CO
September 30Four Corners ZoneSt. Paul'sDurango, CO South Central ZoneAscensionLittleton, CO
October 9Northern New Mexico ZoneChrist LutheranAlbuquerque,NM
October 14North CentralFaith LutheranNorth Denver, CO

\*Coming to a church near you.....Ladies dressed in purple, Bible Study, worship, ingatherings for local charities, singing, guestspeakers, food and fellowship!

All the things that make a Fall Rally a special event. Be sure to join yours!

Western Zone.....Redeemer.....Delta, CO

### **DISTRICT CALENDAR AND REMINDERS**

April 1 <sup>st</sup> —August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Registration open for the District Retreat
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Scholarship Applications due
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for LWML Convention Regular Registration
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Late Registration Ends
June 22 <sup>nd</sup> —25 <sup>th</sup>	LWML 40 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Milwaukee, WI
September 8 <sup>th</sup> —10 <sup>th</sup>	District Retreat in Glorieta, NM
June 7 <sup>th</sup> —9 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Rocky Mountain District Convention in Greeley,

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Colleen Spahr Linda Harsh Sue Giddings

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE DISTRICT

## SPRING SERVICE PROJECTS

Beautiful Savior LWML in Broomfield, CO loves doing things for their congregation. When the metal folding chairs in the fellowship hall neede to be replaced, they started setting aside money to buy new ones. When they had done their research, received approval from the Trustees, and set aside \$500, the ladies hosted a spaghetti dinner after Bible Study. They let the congregation know about their goal of purchasing 100 chairs at \$50 each. At this point they were halfway to their goal. The voters and church council decided to cover the remaining cost. The new chairs arrived in time to use at the Easter Breakfast, as well as host the Northern Zone Spring Rally.



Pictured above, Bev Baldwin and Sue Evans hold the old and new chairs.



The Risen Savior Women in Mission in Broomfield, CO decided to collect coats for Orphan Grain Train in honor of LWML's 80th Anniversary. They collected 119 coats for men, women, and children during Lent. The coats were dedicated on Palm Sunday with the Matthew 21:8 scripture in mind. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road....



St. Paul's Lutheran Women in Mission from Durango, CO collected newborn items for LifeGuard, a local group dedicated to helping women keep their babies. LifeGuard offers to help women facing crisis pregnancies and also offers free ultrasounds. Some people like to give up something for Lent, instead we give something for Lent. Pictured above are June Dunn, Linda Scott, Susanna Oelke, Dell Davis, and Jo Beegles.

#### HOW CAN I RETURN GOD'S BLESSINGS

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we know that all our blessings come from God. We love to serve Him by sharing our earthly time and talents. Through the planned giving process you can establish a complete Christian estate/gift plan. There are four steps to guide and educate you through the process of developing and implementing your Lifetime Plan for Giving.

- 1. Discovery—A simple survey documenting your estate preferences including stewardship goals, family relationships, financial blessings, and desired tax advantages.
- 2. Design—Using the information from the survey, several gift plan designs are created for your consideration. These designs reflect your estate planning goals and offers several options for you. They are in an easy to read one-page format.
- 3. Summary—When you choose a plan, I draft an organized estate plan summary for you to share with your attorney or other advisors.
- 4. Implementation—The final step is implementing your Christian estate/gift plan. Your attorney will review, advise, and prepare the necessary legal documents. The summary will assist in the process and in many cases reduce legal costs.

To assist you in the process, LWML has two wonderful FREE resources: Lifetime Plan for Giving Survey, and Lifetime Plan for Giving Guide. Seeking more information, contact our Rocky Mountain District Advocates: Colorado contact Beth Weber by email: weber4342 @acsol.net, phone: 970-361-0794. New Mexico/Durango: Debbie Yocky by email: yockyp@comcast.net, phone: 505-822-0767.



Beth Weber

**GIFTS OF LOVE** 

### **RIO GRANDE SPRING EVENT**







The Rio Grande Zone held their spring workshop at Zion, El Paso on March 25, 2023. The combined bell choirs from Zion, El Paso and Trinity, Alamogordo prepared some selections that went with their Bible study, Women with Jesus at the Cross and Tomb. Jill Clark, Christian Life chairman for the zone, led the Bible study, Pastor Bill Heithold opened with a devotion, and Pastor Heimer was the photographer. After lunch they bagged beans and rice for Zion's food outreach

BELINDA BURMEISTER

RIO GRANDE ZONE PRESIDENT

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And the peace of God, which surposses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Desus.

Philippians 4:7

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