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

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HOPE

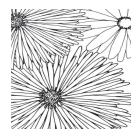
Since we have such a hope, we are very bold...2 Corinthians 3:12. Our hope in Christ Jesus gives us boldness, an anchor, confidence, a future, and encouragement.

In this issue of *Tidings* our writers offer up their own experiences and thoughts about hope with God's Word as the basis. Some of our readers either attended the LWML Convention in person or streamed portions of it online. If you didn't, you can enjoy seeing photos of some of the events and the district personalities, as well as an article detailing some convention facts and milestones.

Convention delegates chose 31 missions to support in the next biennium and LWML has a great start towards funding them with the generous offerings given at the opening worship service, as well as the Mission Riverwalk and the Tee-Up for Mites golf tournament. Some of the grant recipients are as follows: Orphan Grain Train \$100,000, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch \$100,000, Journeys Lutheran School, serving special needs children \$100,000, Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakstan \$100,000, the Indian Bible Translation Project \$100,000, Lutheran Family Services \$100,000, Pastor Education \$100,000, and so on bringing Christ's love and hope to many around the world.

Don't forget to register for the Fall Retreat to be held in Glorieta, NM the weekend of September 8-10. Donna Snow will be our Bible Study leader so it promises to be an inspiring weekend filled with fellowship opportunities for all. **The deadline for registration is August 1st and you can find the form at** <u>lwmlrmd.org</u> **under the events tab.**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13.



Shelley Stewart
PRESIDENT

ANCHOR YOURSELF IN THE WORD

Everything seems to be moving too fast, changing so fast. The old saying says that nothing is constant but change.

However, as followers of Christ we know this isn't quite true. Hebrews 6:18-19 says, God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as the anchor for the soul, firm and secure. God's promise will never change, no matter what. What a great comfort that is! Have you ever observed someone at a funeral who doesn't believe in God? The utter despair they have over the loss of their loved one will break your heart. God promises that we will see our loved ones again. So it's not "goodbye", it's "see you later"!, or as my husband said to his mom when she passed in March, "Save me a seat!"

This hope in God brings us comfort in good times and bad. We know He will use all our experiences for His purposes. Romans 8:28 reassures us, And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purposes. There are no coincidences. God has a plan and you are right where you are supposed to be. Your only job is to obey and do what you are told to do in your circumstance. Sometimes this can be the hard part! This is when we need to trust and use the comfort and anchor of the unchanging Word. Look for ways to use your situation to bring glory to Him. It might be that you are an example and a comfort for someone else. We may never know this, but God does. I saw a meme on social media the other day that said, 'The Author is writing your story. Quit trying to steal the pen."



What is your HOPE in? What is HOPE? Where do you get your HOPE? When you are having a bad day, a day that is filled with problems and trials you may think that there is no hope. Well, that is a good time to ask these questions of yourself and look at God's word for the answer. In the English Standard Bible the word Hope is found 164 times and the two books of the Bible that use the word hope most often are Job, with 21 times, and Psalms, with 28 times.

What is your hope in? In the first two chapters of Job we hear God talking to Satan about the great faith of Job and Satan says to God that the only reason he has great faith is because God is giving him an abundance of blessings. So, God allowed Satan to test Job by taking the blessings away, but not to take Job's life. Now that's getting personal, and asking the question, What is your hope in? , is a big part of what the book of Job is all about. In chapter 3, Job looks at all that has happened to him and his family and he wishes that he was not born. His friend Eliphaz asks Job, Is not your fear of God your confidence, and the integrity of your ways your hope?" (Job 4:6)

What is your hope in? That is a question we all need to ask ourselves when we can't find hope in the things going on around us. The problem Eliphaz and Job have is that they both think that their hope is found in what they are doing, how good their life is going, which is works righteousness and not in what God has done for us by grace. By the end of the book of Job with God's help, Job has come to understand that the true hope that we have is found in the love of God for us. Not in what we have done in our lives for the things of this world are only temporary. God is the one who created everything in this world for us and He is

the one we need to put our hope in.

King David also learns this same lesson in his life and in Psalm 33:18 – 22 tells us this, Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love, that He may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in Him because we trust in His holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You. King David was known for his love of God and holding onto the hope that God was going to take care of him even in situations that didn't look that way. Still there were many times in his life when he fell away from following God's word in his life and then came back to God when he was shown the error of his ways. That's what we all need to do when we fall into sin as God reminds us through the Apostle Paul's writing to the Romans and each of us in Romans 5:1 – 5. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we (let us) have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we (let us) rejoice (boast) in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

What is HOPE? It's the faith that has been given to us by the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Where do you get your HOPE? In God's Word and Sacraments as God strengthens and increases our faith and hope in Him alone!!!



Pastor Pete Scheele

PASTORAL COUNSELOR



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	\$ 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	\$ 2,500
Dominican Republic Disability Ministry	\$	3,000	\$ 1,500

MISSION GRANTS MITE PROGRESS

TOTAL \$ 80,000 \$ 47,000

MISSION GRANT UPDATE

Jeremiah 29:11 ~ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Hope. It's amazing how much hope we have in the Lord. Hope in good times and even in trials. It's our job to spread this message of hope to others, but how can we best do that? One way is to support our mission grants. The RMD LWML is supporting the Dominican Republic Disability Ministry. Grant money will make possible the continued care of the youth and young adults in the group home. The long-term goal is to change the way the Dominican Republic society and government view and care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to be a church that shares the love of Christ with all people. This mission was granted \$3,000, and \$1,500

has been paid. You can learn more about the mission at <u>https://www.lcms.org/</u> <u>dominicanmission</u>.

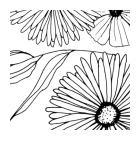
We are also supporting Mission **Opportunities Short Term (MOST)** ministries. MOST Ministries provides short term mission opportunities for individuals to support Christian ministries throughout the world through witness and service. The vision of MOST Ministries is that the Word of God be clearly preached in truth and purity throughout the world, and that humanitarian needs are effectively addressed in every land. To give hope to all by working together to empower each other to impact the world for Jesus Christ. This mission was granted \$6,000 and has been paid \$3,000. To find out more about MOST please visit https:// www.mostministries.org/welcome. Praise be to God for enabling us to support these important ministries as they share His hope with the world!

SOWING HOPE

The Young Woman Representative and Teen programs are a way for LWML to show hope for the future. At some point everyone wants to "retire" or you reach a point where you must scale back for health or other quality of life reasons. Therefore, every organization, community, group, or family must reach a point where the baton or mantle passes to the next generation. Part of successfully passing this mantle to the next generation is to mentor and prepare them for the change. This holds true whether you are an organization or a family.

The YWR and Teen programs are centered around introducing these ladies to the LWML. We help them understand what we do, why we do it, and help foster mentorship opportunities for them to join us and contribute. Please, foster relationships with the young women and teens in your congregations and groups/

societies. Talk to them about their ideas and thoughts, but also give them the benefit of your experience and knowledge. Help mentor them by both listening and imparting the knowledge you have already gained. If you can receive their views and fresh, unbiased ideas and they can receive the knowledge from your experience, imagine what we can create together. Also, invite these ladies to apply for the Young Woman Representative and Teen programs for the upcoming convention. These programs help to connect these ladies with additional mentorship opportunities as well and help to answer questions about the LWML and ways that they can become involved. Connect them with additional resources on both the district and national webpages and if they are interested connect them with other mentors in your zone and our district. Thank you for helping sow hope for the future of LWML.



Christina Bean

SERVANT RESOURCES VP

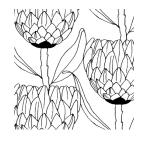
HOPE

Life is filled with highs and lows. It is so easy to focus on the struggles and brokenness in our own world and the world around us. When we spend all our time focusing on the troubles, that can lead to despair and hopelessness. It is easy to lose our way so what are we to do? Thankfully we have a God who loves us, comforts us, and pursues us. He gives us His Word and Sacrament to restore our soul. He gives us community to walk beside us and His Holy Spirit to intercede for us when we have no words to pray. He gives us HOPE.

My Grandma was a woman of few words. I learned many things from her through her actions. Every evening she would use the *Portals of Prayer* as her devotion. During her failing health, she would spend time reading scripture. I learned how important it was to be steeped in God's word throughout life from her. If you are not already doing this, I would encourage you to start a daily practice of scripture reading and prayer. That Word and Prayer can help you weather any of life's storms with the HOPE and assurance that can only come from God!

Do not know where to start? Here are a few places to start:

 Simply pick up and read the Bible
 Mustard Seed Devotions (print or LWML App)
 LWML Bible Studies (<u>https://</u> <u>www.lwml.org/long-bible-studies</u>)
 Portals of Prayers (print or App)
 The Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotion (App)
 Countless resources from CPH like Treasury of Daily Prayer (<u>https://</u> <u>www.cph.org/treasury-of-daily-prayerregular-edition</u>)
 Lots of great podcasts from sources like KFUO Radio



Christie Peebles

CHRISTIAN LIFE VP

2023 CONVENTION PHOTOS











Top Photo: Rocky Mountain District attendees.

Middle Photos: The convention stage. Roxanne Smith, Heart to Heart Sister from the South Central Zone.

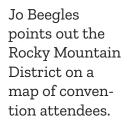
Bottom Photo: RMD Pastoral Counselor, Pete Scheele with his wife, Glenda.







Anita Werner meets "The Fonz".



The Convention Hall's interesting architecture.

The Milwaukee Mission Riverwalk.

A Pastoral Choir











Sue Giddings

CONVENTION NEWS

The 40th Biennial LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin got off to an inspirational start with its opening worship service and communion. Around 4,000 people attended the service. Some fun facts include: 30 sets of communion ware were produced from 555 pounds of clay, and there were 15 gallons of wine used for the common cup! Ladies in purple arrived from 49 states via airline, charter bus, and car. There were even 3 ladies who rode their bikes!

Prior to the worship service on Thursday, there was a servant event in which 1,200 people participated to support various ministries including Orphan Grain Train, Phil's Friends, the Red Cross, and Lutheran Braille Workers.

The LWML has supported 460 grants in 83 countires over the years and delegates voted to continue this 80 year history by approving a 2023-2025 Mission Goal of \$2,350,000. That should be easy since their mission impact over the 80 years has been \$28.9 million.

Delegates had to elect a few new officers this time. The new President is Eden Keefe, from the Kansas District. VP of Oganizational Resources is Arlene Naasz. VP of Special Focus Ministries is Carol Selle. The new treasurer is Anita Werner from our own Rocky Mountain District. The new Pastoral Counselor is the Reverend Mark Maas. Olajmoke Odedele will head up the nominating committee of Deaconess Betty Knapp, Laura Strattman, Melissa Vance, and Roxanne Pieper.

There are always special offerings collected at the convention along with an offering for the new mission goal. Offering #1 for the Mission Goal was \$52,922. Offering #2 for We Are Called to Care was \$31,037. Offering #3 for Wolf River Lutheran High School was \$18,360. Offering #4 for the Milwaukee Area Crisis Pregnancy Centers was \$2,872.

If you plan to attend the 41st Bienniel LWML Convention, you won't have too far to travel. It is being hosted by the Nebraska Districts in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26-30, 2025.

So mark your calendars for Omaha!!



Speaking of conventions and marking calendars...next year plan to join with your LWML sisters in Greeley, Colorado June 6-9 at the Doubletree by Hilton at Lincoln Park. You might even run into Shelly, Melissa or Rebecca pictured above with our Rocky Mountain District Banner.



Fall Rally Schedule

FALL RALLY 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**!

August 25Rio Grande ZoneAscensionEl 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 14North CentralFaith LutheranNorth Denver, CO Western ZoneRedeemerDelta, CO

October 21.....Northern New Mexico Zone....Christ Lutheran..Albuquerque, NM

*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!



Suetta Mitchell HAPPENINGS IN THE DISTRICT

100 YEARS YOUNG and HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



Gethsemane Lutheran Church of Northglenn, Colorado celebrated a special person's birthday at our April regular Dorcas Guild meeting. We hosted a beautiful luncheon with flowers and cards for Lillian Frey. Lillian is 100 years young this month and is the driving force behind our Guild. Lillian joined LWML when she was only 19 years old in 1942 or 1943 in Wichita, Kansas at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The Pastor went to Chicago, Illinois where the first LWML meeting was organized. The Wichita guild was set up when Pastor returned from Chicago. Lillian has been a member of Northglenn Gethsemane Lutheran Church since it was built by the district. Pastor Stuenkel was the first pastor and had to go door to door to gather his congregation. The first GLC service was held July 1960. The first woman's group of GLC called Mary Martha met in the evening to accommodate the working women. Lillian has held many major positions in our Guild, Zone, and LWML. She has come from riding horseback 3 miles to attend First and Second grade to the age of computers and rockets to outer space. Through all this she has devoted 81 years of service to the church and the Guild and embraced all these changes. We want to recognize this remarkable woman. Be sure to thank her when you run into her at the next church function!

Jo Ann Beegles

FOUR CORNERS ZONE PRESIDENT Pictured at the right are Stella Schoultz and Jo Beegles. Stella was an RMD Young Woman's Representative at the Lexington Convention in 2021 and also the Four Corners Zone YWR last year in Albuquerque. Jo is the Zone President. The Four Corners Zone is very proud of Stella who graduated from UNM in Albuquerque a few weeks ago. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Medical Laboratory Science. For this coming fall she was accepted to attend Texas Tech University in Amarillo for four years to earn her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. Blessings and hope for Stella!



Bernie and Helen created their first estate plan when they were 25, right after the birth of their first child. In the fifty years since that time, they have had three more children, and now have eight grandchildren. During those fifty years, they moved four times, to four different states. In each place, they engaged with their local church. Combined, there have been six congregations in their lives. Two of the congregations have closed, as they were both located in urban areas that changed from the ethnic origins of the congregations. Two of the congregations have Lutheran Schools, bursting at the seams with enrollment. One of the congregations has a vibrant caring ministry for battered women. One has an outreach to immigrants in their community. All four of these congregations and their ministries have had a place in Bernie's and Helen's life. They want to reflect this connection with ministry and update their fifty-year-old wills,

creating gifts for their children and grandchildren.

They met with an LWML Gift Planning Counselor and began organizing a survey of family, assets, and goals. They indicated that one of their goals is to build flexibility into their plans, as life has taught them that life changes. They were happy to see some of the flexible tools that are available. Now instead of putting off their planning, or dreading it, they are excited about leaning into the future which includes one day living face to face with Jesus. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you too. Contact Carol von Soosten by email at Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org, by phone: 800-741-4138, or on the website at lwmlqiftplan.org. Our Colorado Advocate, Elizabeth Weber, is also available to answer your questions. Contact her by email at weber4342@acsol.net, or on her cell phone at 970-361-0794.



Beth Weber GIFTS OF LOVE

A MISSION RIVERWALK

The Mission Walk is a popular event at national conventions. Pledges are made and the Women in Mission put on their walking shoes! This year, women who could not attend the convention in person were invited to do their own walks for missions. Pictured are Women in Mission from Durango, CO who had their own Mission Riverwalk. They also were joined by some children on bikes and babies in strollers.





The walk was cut short by a rain shower. God's blessings of fellowship and moisture.

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And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Desus. Philippians 4:7

Email hello@lwmlrmd.org