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Lutheran Women's  
Missionary League  
Rocky Mountain District

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## GIVE THANKS

In this issue of *Tidings* we find reasons to pause and reflect on what God has done in us and through our LWML. It is indeed a time for giving thanks to God most especially for sending Jesus to be our salvation.

We give thanks in our RMD for the willingness of women and men to serve in leadership roles and continue the business of serving our Lord with gladness. The Events Planning Committee is already at work planning our convention in 2026. If you were unable to attend the 2024 convention in Greeley, please take some time to respond to a survey. Our planner, Becky Meyer would like input for the advance planning of our next district convention. Here is the link <https://forms.gle/JjumGJxysFNFEXLc6> just click the link, fill out the survey, and google does the rest. Or you could email Becky at [planner@lwmlrmd.org](mailto:planner@lwmlrmd.org) for a pdf version. Completed pdf surveys can be scanned in and sent to the same email address.

As you read this issue of *Tidings*, please take note of a fun idea from our Mission Servants Committee. It is "husband" tested and certified as excellent. Fall rallies have been wrapped up and two of our zones shared photos and information about their day. Some important information came from our convention committee for Omaha 2025 including banner instructions and ingathering instructions. We also now have a way to proceed with our online giving, note the link in the poster on page 7. Additionally, it is never too early to begin a search for a YWR to represent our district in Omaha or to represent your zone in Colorado Springs.

So, *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!* Psalm 100: 4

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Shelley Stewart  
**PRESIDENT**

## A SEASON FOR GRATITUDE

My husband and I jokingly call our teenage children “ingrates”. They have so much, but they always want more. This is how we tend to act with our Heavenly Father, isn’t it? We have so many blessings, blessings without number really, but we still want more. He is a good Father, and will grant us blessings, but do we “remember our manners” and say “thank you?” There is a great skit on the LWML website ([lwml.org](http://lwml.org)) that explores the reasons only one of the 10 lepers Jesus healed returned to say thank you (Luke 17:11-19). They all had wonderful excuses for not going back: from visiting family, to taking a bath, to just being shy. That hits a little close to home for me. I’m busy, but not too busy to say a prayer of thanks for my blessings.

When I think of blessings, I think of the old movie “White Christmas” and Bing Crosby crooning about “when you’re

worried and you can’t sleep, just count your blessings instead of sheep.” As we come into this season of abundance and time with friends and family, don’t forget to say a prayer of thanks for all that you have. We have so much more than some others in the world, so count your blessings and don’t forget to be thankful. Share your thankfulness with others with kind words and a smile. Not everyone has an “attitude of gratitude” and this can make it difficult. But we don’t know what challenges they are facing, so Jesus just asks that we be examples of His love to others.

In this season we can be Christ-like examples and show thanks and patience with those around us and maybe slip a little Gospel in there too.



# A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE



Kevin Cramm

**JUNIOR  
PASTORAL  
COUNSELOR**

In the US Thanksgiving is traditionally seen as a time when family and friends gather around a big meal, eat too much, enjoy each other's company, and in Christian households give thanks to God who has allowed us to gather, and has blessed us throughout the past year. But what if your days are covered with the dark clouds of want and despair, what if you live in Asheville, NC and you are spending the holiday sifting through the remnants of your life and trying to build a new one from the ashes of the old. What if your home is Ukraine and your whole life is turned upside down by war. Then where is the thanksgiving?

In a sense Thanksgiving is a matter of perspective. People with a disability may be thankful for the simple ability to walk from one room to the next, to speak and be heard, to have the ability to put their pants on one leg at a time. As a people who live in the richest country in the world, who are blessed with more food than we can eat, bigger houses than we need, and a health care system that allows us to live beyond the norm; we can forget that God's blessings also include the little things of life too. These blessings are often taken for granted as we focus on the world's wealth, yet they come from the Lord and are foundational to our lives on this earth. So let us not become consumed with jealousy or envy when we see that others seem to be more richly blessed than us, but bask in the goodness of our God.

Thanksgiving is a matter of perspective. Whether we are rich or poor, healthy or not as Christians we know that unlike the world around us, we have life, life that comes from God, a life that transforms us in this life and when our days come to an end and we lay the blessings of this world aside we raise our eyes up to the Lord and we behold the fulness of life, the absence of sorrow and want as we move into glory. We may or may not be blessed with the stuff of this world, but as Christians we have more, we have eternal life and an eternal future in Christ. So, we bow ourselves before the Lord and give thanks with grateful hearts.

Why do we have all these things? Because a little baby was born in a stable and laid in a manger. He was not just any old baby boy he was Immanuel – God with us, the incarnate Son of God and Son of Man at the same time. He came to save us from our sin, to give us salvation and life in him. He is our only hope for the present and our firm foundation in the future.

As we move from the secular celebration of Thanksgiving to the holy season of Advent and the high festival of Christmas let us devote ourselves once again to our God who has given us the greatest of all blessings, his Son and our Savior.



## MISSION GRANTS MITE PROGRESS

Andi Noblitt

GOSPEL  
OUTREACH VP

REMEMBER TO  
SEND MITES TO:

ANN  
HERNANDEZ  
LWML RMD  
TREASURER  
PO BOX 971848  
ELPASO, TX 79997

	GRANTED	PAID
Mt. Zion Lutheran, Boulder, CO	\$5,000	
Concordia Lutheran Radio Ministry, Sud-Est, Haiti	\$5,000	
Concordia Seminary Food Bank/Re-Sell It Shop	\$5,000	
Concordia University Acts 1:8 Fund	\$6,500	
CTSFW Food and Clothing Co-op	\$5,000	
Kitchen Renovation at God Cares About You	\$8,000	
Mission Evangelical Luterana Confesionalen Honduras	\$6,500	
LHF Bible Books for Ghana's children	\$5,000	
Lutheran High School Missions (LuHi)	\$8,000	
MOST Ministries Feet on the Ground	\$6,000	
Orphan Grain Train Shipping Container	\$5,000	
Redeemer Lutheran School Scholarship	\$5,000	
Set Apart to Serve LCMS Office of Pastoral Education	\$5,000	
Math Curriculum/ Manipulatives Trinity Lutheran	\$5,000	
Total \$80,000		

## MISSION GRANT UPDATE

***The Lord is my strength and my shield;  
in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;  
my heart exults, and with my song I  
give thanks to him." Psalm 28:7***

We are so thankful that there are those willing to work in the mission field. It is a difficult but incredibly important job. This biennium we are supporting two organizations that help seminarians, and their families afford food, clothing, and other household items as they attend college. Concordia Seminary Re-sell It Shop and Food Bank, in St Louis, and

the Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, (CTSFW) Food and Clothing Co-op offer essential budget relief to theological students and their families. Each of these organizations will receive a \$5,000 grant. Please visit the RMD LWML website for more information on these and other mission grants. Thanks to all church workers and their families who are willing to dedicate their lives to this amazing work. We pray that you will be successful and thank God for all that you do!

# THANKFUL FOR OUR MENTORS

Who are you thankful for? Are you thankful for the next generation of women and girls becoming involved in the LWML?

The Young Woman Representative programs and Teen programs are great ways to get them involved. These programs allow these ladies to attend the district (or national for YWRs) convention as a representative and learn what the LWML is about and ways they can become involved. Do you know a young woman who should apply to be our district representative for the national convention?

Applications are available online now! If you know someone who would be a good fit, encourage them to fill out the application. Applications are typically due by January 15th and we all know

that Christmas time tends to be busy for everyone, so encourage them to fill out the applications early!

Are you thankful for the leaders in your group, zone, district, and on the national level? Think about all of the women who have helped to mentor you on your LWML journey. I know I have been blessed with several mentors along the way and give thanks for their support. Maybe thank a few of these individuals by giving thanks in prayer for their involvement in your life and ask God to bless and help them in their journey forward.

**Editor's Note:** We are still in need of 2 volunteers to be our Social Media Administrator and to be our Teen Committee Chairman.



Christina Bean

**SERVANT  
RESOURCES VP**

## SERVING

**James 1:27** *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction; and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*

When I read this verse, I feel overwhelmed. There are a lot of orphans and widows. And keeping myself unstained from the world? I can't do it.

Thanks be to Jesus, He covers all my sins, all of my stains from the world! In the meantime, I will do my little portion. Contributing to mites helps some of those widows. Going to visit those people I know that are orphans and widows is a portion. But ultimately, how much can I do? It is overwhelming. Thank you so much dear God for sending your dear Son to cover my puny self and my countless failings!! I am so blessed to be one of your redeemed, saved sinners.

Amen!



Margaret Blazek

**CHRISTIAN LIFE  
VP**



Nebraska  
Convention  
Committee

## GET YOUR DESIGNS READY

The women of the LWML Nebraska North and Nebraska South Districts are thrilled to welcome each of you to the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha, Nebraska! The theme for our 41st Biennial Convention is based on 2 Peter 3:18.

The Banner Procession at LWML conventions sets the tone for the convention as it beautifully expresses the convention theme and highlights the God-given talents of our districts. You are being offered the opportunity to participate in a visual way to celebrate this convention. You may choose to use a vintage banner designed for a previous national LWML convention or you may create a new banner using the 2025 convention theme. Banner specifications noted below.

Finished banner size is to be 3' x 5'. Added fringe may be longer. You may **not** use the convention logo on your banner, but do base your design on the convention theme, "Growing in God's Grace." You may use the convention colors or other colors if you wish. **Heavy fabric or bulky items are discouraged**, as your banner should be easy to manage when carried.

Your district's name **must be on the front** of the banner, though it may be abbreviated. Use any size letters you wish. **Place a small identifying tag naming your district on the lower left corner on the backside of the banner**, to help identify your district banner when it is rolled up.

**Attach two ties to the back of the banner.** One of the ties is to be at the center of the banner width, about 10–12" from the top. The second tie is to be at the center of the banner width, about 10–12" from the bottom. These ties should be long enough to tie a bow around a 2" pole. **Note: Do NOT** use Velcro to hold banner to the pole, as it has proved ineffective. Please use ties as described.

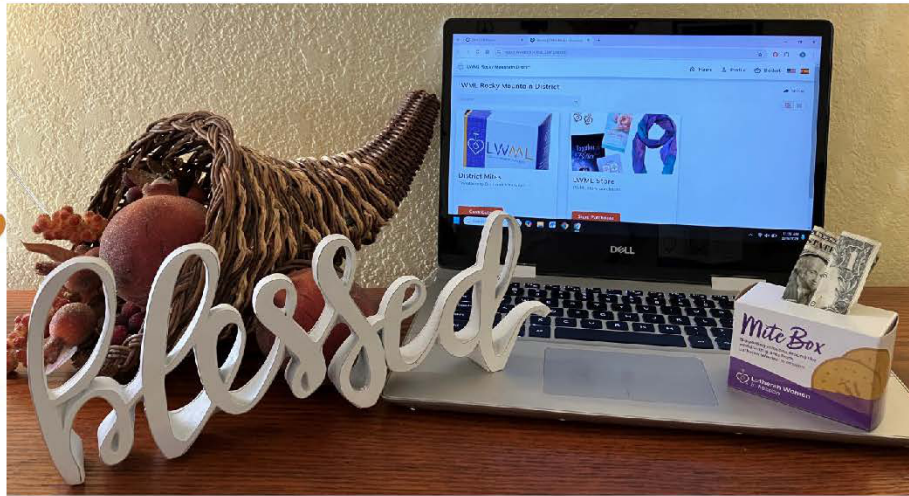
A dowel used at the bottom of the banner must be tacked in place to prevent it from slipping out of the casing.

At the top, attach the banner to a 1" dowel with an eye screw on each end of the dowel. **Please use a strong quarter-inch or 8mm cord.** Make a small loop at the center for hanging. Secure the cording through each eye screw, laying the cord flat along the dowel, with the small loop at the center of the banner. Knot the cord on the outside of each screw. Be sure to attach the cord tightly because it will stretch when the banner is hung. Please hang your banner before sending it to the convention, to allow time for stretching.

Practice carrying your banner before arriving at the convention. The Host Committee will provide poles and stands for the banner.

In the future, we will provide information regarding registering your banner and its delivery to the convention. God's blessings to you as you prepare to join us in Omaha, June 26–29, 2025, when we will joyfully join in "Growing in God's Grace."

Contact Vice President of Communications, Christie Peebles at [communications@lwmlrmd.org](mailto:communications@lwmlrmd.org) to submit your design prior to the Board of Directors Meeting in February. The BOD will select a design at that time.



In this **SEASON**, we are  
**THANKFUL** for the opportunity  
to use our *blessings* to bless others!

**Giving Mites is a wonderful way to share your blessings!**

**You can continue to give using your Mite box or take  
advantage of our easy to use, new online giving portal.**

**Find the link and an instructional video at  
[WWW.LWMLRMD.ORG](http://WWW.LWMLRMD.ORG)!**



LINDA HARSH

MISSION  
SERVANTS  
COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN

## BIRTHDAY CAKE OUTREACH

Cake and birthdays go together! Birthday Cake in a Pan is a simple project, providing everything needed to bake a birthday cake at home. Assemble them with your LWML group, VBS, or shop and put together with your children and grandchildren. Donate these birthday pans to your local food bank or A Precious Child to bring a smile to a child's face and spread the love of Christ.

Items needed: cake mix, can of soda, can of frosting, birthday candles, 13x9 inch foil pan with lid and a card with the recipe on one side and a birthday greeting on the other. Arrange all items in the pan put the lid on, done!  
Optional additions: sprinkles, balloons, birthday napkins...

### Soda Cake Recipe

1 box cake mix (Optional + 1 TBSP flour)

1 12oz can soda-pop (use the soda in place of liquids and eggs on the box of cake mix)

Mix together and pour into

a greased 13x9 pan.

Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes.

Allow to fully cool.

Frost, serve, enjoy!



### Sample Birthday Greeting

May God warm your heart and grant peace upon you  
not only on your birthday but for every single day of your life.  
Happy Birthday to you!

With Love,  
Your group's name or your name

### Have some fun these cake and soda combinations:

Root Beer Float Cake = Vanilla Cake Mix & Root Beer  
Orange Creamsicle Cake = Vanilla Cake Mix & Orange Pop  
Purple Cow Cake = Vanilla Cake Mix & Grape Soda  
Brown Cow Cake = Chocolate Cake Mix & Root Beer  
Strawberry Shortcake = Strawberry Cake Mix & Dr. Pepper  
Zesty Lemon Cake = Lemon Cake Mix & Sprite  
Ginger Spice Cake = Spice Cake Mix & Ginger Ale

# MAKEOVER TIME!



## Gifts from the Heart is Getting a Makeover for Omaha!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? Change. Yes, change.  
Positive and necessary change.

**The days of packing and hauling  
boxes across the country are over!**



NEBRASKA  
CONVENTION

GIFTS FROM THE  
HEART

### What is this GFTH Makeover?

- Each recipient has selected their top nine physical item needs and put them on an Amazon Wish List. The 10th item for each recipient is Visa gift cards — any dollar amount.
- GFTH Shopping will open on February 1, 2025, and remain open through the convention.
- No more packing huge boxes and hauling them across the country.
- We lessen the burden on volunteers at convention and for our GFTH recipients.

### WHAT WILL WE DO INSTEAD?

#### Utilize Amazon Wish Lists

- Shop online and ship directly to our recipients in the months before the convention.
- Select items from an Amazon Wish List of each recipient's top needs.
- Use the online link provided.
- Shop individually, or make it a group event.

### Will we still accept physical items at the convention?

The answer is yes — we will still have a GFTH drop-off room. We will still have volunteers ready to assist with physical items that are brought to convention. Our hope is that we can cut the number of physical items by about half for Omaha.

### Why the change?

Over the last decade, GFTH gifts have continued to increase overwhelmingly. We praise God for all of the generous Lutheran Women in Mission. But the physical burden for the Gospel Outreach Committee, other volunteer helpers, and the recipients themselves has become a burden. Recipients are thankful and blessed by the truck loads of items. But dealing with transportation to their facility, along with unpacking and storing so many items received at one time can be difficult. This new GFTH system will provide them with their top needs over the course of several months during 2025 and not all in one weekend.

[LINK for downloadable flyer.](#)

The Gospel Outreach Committee thanks you for helping to be the message proclaimers for the GFTH Makeover.



South Central  
Zone Rally

KIM MALLORY

## MT. OLIVE HOSTS FALL RALLY

Below and right are photos from the South-Central Zone Rally held at Mt Olive Lutheran Church, Aurora on Saturday 10/12/2024. We had an ingathering of gently used children's clothes for Orphan Grain Train, Marie McQuarrie presented kitchen angels to Heidi Norton for her husband Tim's mission in New Mexico, and we collected mites for our LWML missions. Heidi spoke to us about Heart to Heart and we had a Bible study on sending workers into the harvest field by Reverend North Sherrill. The ladies enjoyed, singing, a skit, taco bar, and root beer floats as well as making sugar scrubs to take home with a surprise parting gift. We elected Jessica Thomas as President and Raeanne Kooren as Treasurer. They were installed by Reverend



North Sherrill. Thrivent Financial helped support the rally with \$250 which was much appreciated.



# TRINITY GALLUP HOSTS FALL RALLY

At the Four Corners Zone Fall Rally, Pastor Gary Bickner led a Bible study entitled *Friends*. The study was based on the friendship of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus from Luke 10, and John 11 and 12. Jo Ann Beegles led the business meeting. Mary Bickner was elected President of the Zone, and Sharon Crater the Secretary/Treasurer. District Representatives Margaret Blazek and Christina Bean were on hand to offer support and the latest items from the LWML Store. The Gallup ladies had a friendship activity planned which included making sugar scrubs to take home and gift to a friend. An ingathering for Kids Care Kits to be shared with the police department was also very successful.



Four Corners  
Zone

Leslie Lewis



# contact us

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*I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121: 1-2



# connect with us

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