

Contents

President.....	2
Servant Resources VP.....	2
Pastoral Counselor.....	3
Christian Life VP.....	3
Gospel Outreach VP.....	4
What Past Attendees Say About District Conven- tion.....	5
2025 Fall Retreat.....	6
Fall Retreat Photos.....	7
Mission Servants Committee	8
Mission Grant Proposals.....	8
Fall Rally News.....	9
More Fall Rally News	10
Call for Nominations.....	11
Contacts.....	12

ADVENT

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

As we prepare for the seasonal holidays of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas we can find many ways to let our lights shine and so give glory to God. While you are busy shopping, baking, and otherwise preparing for the holidays don't forget to read your *Tidings* and help us to prepare for the Rocky Mountain District Convention in Colorado Springs. We need candidates for several district positions including president. We need young women to represent our zones and learn what LWML is all about. We need proposals for mission grants to send our mite donations to. We need you to save the date and join us June 5-7, 2026 at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. Also, it is not too early to start collecting items for the ingatherings; you can find more information in this *Tidings* and future publications. These are just some ways we need to look ahead to prepare for the next biennium and you can find more information in the articles that follow.

If your group is stuck not knowing what to do for the Advent season, the LWML website has many options including Mission Service Activities like making a wreath, a reverse Advent calendar, or Christmas cards. They also have programs like *Advent by Candlelight*, *From Manger to Mount* with six programs for the seasons of the year, *On Our Way to Bethlehem* with responsive readings and hymns, and a sketch on Advent. These are all free downloads and can be accessed at www.lwml.org! Take a look, there are lots of great Bible studies, retreats, and programs for you to choose from now and throughout the year.

Merry Christmas from the Rocky Mountain District LWML.

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Shelley Stewart
PRESIDENT

ANTICIPATION, SHARE THE NEWS

Advent is to celebrate the remembrance and anticipation. In the Christian sense, this is to remember the life and works of Jesus, and to prepare our hearts and minds for His birth and the Second Coming. Advent is also synonymous with acts of charity and giving. But what if we did this year-round, not just at Christmas?

Isaiah 9: 2-7 says *"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."*

Shouldn't we be sharing this news all the time? There are people that have never heard this news. Can you imagine? How mean is it to keep this secret to ourselves? I don't think we intend to be mean, but by not sharing this news of salvation, we are depriving some of the freedom and comfort we have. So this Advent, why not help others celebrate too? Tell them of the salvation and freedom, not just at Christmas, but always.



Christina Bean
SERVANT
RESOURCES VP

CALLING ALL YWRS AND TEENS

The applications for Young Woman Representatives and Teen Representatives are live on the website at www.lwmlrmd.org ! If you have a young woman or teen in your life that would be a good fit for the program, have them go to the website and fill out an application to submit to your zone. All representatives from the zone need to be submitted to the district by April 1st.

These programs allow these young ladies to attend the convention and learn more about what we do and the many options to serve. This program is helpful for involving younger generations in the LWML. If women don't understand what we do and why it's important, they are much less likely to value it or get involved.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas!

ADVENTAGEOUS

Considering everything that happens around Christmastime, one could say having a season in advance to prepare for it all is "ADVENTageous!"

Dad jokes aside, this truly is an important season we have coming up. Preparation for the arrival of Jesus is a major theme in the Scriptures, from the call to repentance of John the Baptist, to Jesus' parables, to the visions of John the apostle in Revelation. Given its prevalence, it should be just as natural for us to prepare for Him as it would be with any special guest coming into town to see us.

Perhaps unlike a traveling friend or relative, Jesus doesn't so much expect to arrive to homes tidied up as much as He does to *lives* that are. We are Christians, after all – disciples of His that have been welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, and gifted transformed lives through the power of His indwelling Spirit. How embarrassing should it be if He were to find us sleeping, distracted, or otherwise negligent in our Christian

duties. So, we sleepers must awaken, rise from our beds, splash some baptismal water on our faces, and get busy with the work we've been given to do!

The time to get busy is now, because Jesus really is coming, and sooner than we might think. Let's not get comfortable with an idea that His arrival is some far-off date that we may never see in our lifetime. The reality is, Jesus comes to us every day. He comes to us in the orphan, the widow, and the immigrant. He comes to us hungry, thirsty, and naked. And the welcome He desires from those who would be His sheep is one of indiscriminately humble hearts, open doors, and loving hands.

We all are in regular need of repentance, because our flesh would keep the door closed on a Jesus who stands behind it and knocks. The fact that we have woken up to a new day is proof that He has been patient and gracious toward us, and has gifted us with the opportunity to start anew. How "ADVENTageous" for us!



Duane Meisner

SENIOR
PASTORAL
COUNSELOR

ADVENT

"The word "advent" is from the Latin word for "coming", and as such describes the coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh" Quoted from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Joplin, MO.

Advent is a very special time in very many ways. People are getting ready for the coming of Christmas and the birth of Our Savior Jesus. On a practical level it means decorating our homes, buying and wrapping gifts, mailing gifts for those who are far away, and many other preparations. It often means helping to decorate our church, perhaps preparing for a special Christmas program at church, maybe even practicing with a choir for special music for worship on Christmas. On a deeper, more spiritual

level, it means preparing in a spiritual manner, putting our minds and hearts in a state of readiness for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Advent is full of anticipation for the coming of Christmas and the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. It is also a time for us to meditate and prepare for the final Advent, the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. When that great day comes, we shall rejoice in the fulfillment of all the promises of Our Savior that we shall live forever with Him!

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



MARGARET
BLAZEK

CHRISTIAN LIFE
VP



MISSION GRANTS MITE PROGRESS

		GRANTED	PAID
	Mt. Zion Lutheran, Boulder, CO	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Concordia Lutheran Radio Ministry, Sud-Est, Haiti	\$5,000	\$2,500
Andi Noblitt	Concordia Seminary Food Bank/Re-Sell It Shop	\$5,000	\$5,000
GOSPEL OUTREACH VP	Concordia University Acts 1:8 Fund	\$6,500	\$3,250
	CTSFW Food and Clothing Co-op	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Kitchen Renovation at God Cares About You	\$8,000	\$8,000
REMEMBER TO SEND MITES TO:	Mission Evangelical Luterana Confesionalen Honduras	\$6,500	\$3,250
ANN	LHF Bible Books for Ghana's children	\$5,000	\$2,500
HERNANDEZ	Lutheran High School Missions (LuHi)	\$8,000	\$8,000
LWML RMD	MOST Ministries Feet on the Ground	\$6,000	\$3,000
TREASURER	Orphan Grain Train Shipping Container	\$5,000	\$2,500
PO BOX 971848	Redeemer Lutheran School Scholarship	\$5,000	\$5,000
EL PASO, TX	Set Apart to Serve LCMS Office of Pastoral Education	\$5,000	\$5,000
79997	Math Curriculum/ Manipulatives Trinity Lutheran	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Total	\$80,000	\$63,000

MISSION GRANT UPDATE

Isaiah 40:31 *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.*

As we enter the season of Advent, we prepare our hearts with hope and anticipation for the coming of Christ. The same hope strengthens and renews us as we join together in supporting missions through our mites, prayers, and encouragement.

Our current mission grants continue to uplift missionaries and ministries so that the Gospel may be proclaimed in every place. At the same time, we also look ahead to the future. Just as Advent points us forward to the fulfillment of God's promises, we are preparing for the next biennium by receiving mission grant proposals. These proposals allow us to discern where God is calling us to serve in the years to come.

BIBLE STUDIES LED
BY PASTORS.

HEARING THE
MISSION
SPEAKERS

F
U
N

WORSHIP

TALKING WITH EXHIBITORS!

NEW IDEAS FOR MY
GROUP

VOTING ON MISSION
GRANTS

WHAT PAST ATTENDEES
LOVE ABOUT LWML
DISTRICT CONVENTION...

LEARNING AND GROWING

WORSHIP!

FRIENDS - OLD
AND NEW

YWRS AND TEENS
GROWING IN FAITH

JUNE 5-7, 2026
@ ANTLERS HOTEL

PRAYING
TOGETHER

LWMLRMD.ORG/CONVENTION



FALL RETREAT

Forty-eight ladies from the Rocky Mountain District joined Pastors Biberdorf and Mattil for a beautiful retreat at Glorieta Camp in north east New Mexico. The weather was a little rainy so no s'mores this year but our hotel had areas for game playing and conversations.

Belinda
Burmeister

RETREAT
CHAIRMAN

Pastor and Cheryl Mattil presented a study titled Blood and Water Flowed. Pastor Mattil shared places in the Bible where God used water for salvation of His people as in the flood, Moses in the basket in the river, the parting of the Red Sea, and Jesus' baptism. God also used blood at the Passover, the sacrificial sprinkling with hyssop, the Last Supper, and Jesus sweating blood as he prayed. Cheryl Mattil detailed and reminded us of some the physical aspects of what Jesus went through on the cross in order for us to be with Him in Eternity. We are cleansed by water and blood.

As a service project, the ladies tied 15 throws and 10 lap quilts. The quilt tops were sewn by ladies from Nora Sotak's group. Retreat goers were encouraged to take a quilt or throw to share in her area at home. Some ladies chose to color instead and were joined by Pastor Biberdorf.

Linda Harsh spoke about and shared examples of the things we will be donating as an ingathering at our District Convention. Carol von Soosten spoke on the topic of gift planning.

We rounded out the weekend with worship led by Pastors Mattil and Biberdorf, then headed home with a sense of renewal. Following are some photos of the retreat activities.



RETREAT FACES



LWML RMD



A HEART FOR NAVAJO YOUTH

Navajo Lutheran Outreach at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in the Four Corners Zone will be one of the three recipients of our 2026 Gifts from the Heart Ingathering. If you choose to support this ministry, we will be assembling **Art Kits** for the youth and gathering **Gift Cards** to meet unexpected needs in their community. Please purchase Gift Cards from **Walmart** (most useful), Dollar Tree or Safeway/Albertsons ranging from \$10 to \$25.

LINDA HARSH

MISSION
SERVANTS
COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

Here's the list of requested **Art Supplies**:

Watercolors with brushes
Colored pencils & fine tip markers
Sharpener & eraser
Play dough or molding clay

Unlined sketch pad (I neglected to include this item in my Sept/Oct article)

Plastic container with a top (preferred), drawstring backpack or tote

These items will fit into a storage container available at Hobby Lobby labeled a Scrapbook Case for \$3.99. If your group decides to assemble these kits as a group project, I'm told the cases are available online in a pack of 10 for a better price. The molding clay is also available at Hobby Lobby.

Here's a quick recap of our other two ingathering recipients and projects:

Orphan Grain Train, assorted **School Supplies** and **Hygiene Kits** (see www.ogt.org)

Lutheran Valley Retreat Wish List, reams of paper, masking tape, gallon or sandwich size Ziplock bags, board/card games, climbing shoes, sleeping bags (preferably 20 degrees or colder), and tarps 16 x 20' or larger.

Check the Sept/Oct issue for more details and stay tuned for more info about OGT & LVR ingathering projects in future issues...

ANDI NOBLITT

GOSPEL
OUTREACH VP

MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS WANTED

New Mission Grants will be proposed and voted on at our 2026 Biennial Convention in Colorado Springs. At this time we are collecting proposals to help us determine where and how God is calling us to serve. These grants are funded by your Mite donations throughout the year.

We invite congregations, ministries, and individuals to prayerfully consider submitting a mission grant proposal during this season of preparation. In doing so, you help ensure that both the current and future missions are strengthened to carry the Good News into the world—so that, together, we may soar on wings like eagles. Please go to www.lwmlrmd.org or scan the QR code for more information or to submit a proposal.



AGE OF GRACE

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come. Psalm 71: 18.

With several generations represented, the Four Corners Zone met at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cortez, CO. Their Fall Rally theme was *Age of Grace* and an interactive Bible study focusing on the theme was led by Pastor Luke Scheele. An ingathering was collected for the Heart to Heart Family Resource Center and Delila Mott spoke about the work being done there. After lunch, Anita Palenschat led an activity to stencil tea towels to be used for table favors at the District Convention next June.



FALL RALLY
NOTES

SUE GIDDINGS

TIDINGS EDITOR



Lots of great food.



Pastor Scheele



In gathering for
needy families.



Stencilling tea towels.



SYLVIA BEAN
FALL RALLY
NEWS

PECOS ZONE FALL RALLY

Pecos Zone held their Fall Rally on August 23, 2025 with the theme of *Growing in God's Grace*, based on 2 Peter 3:18, *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

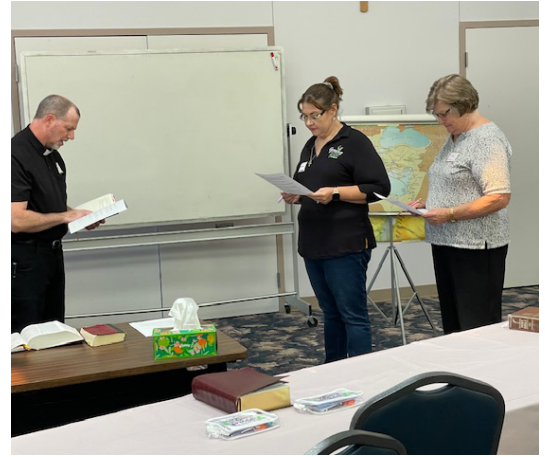
Pastor Brian Flamme, of Immanuel Lutheran in Roswell, NM, led the Bible study.



Elaine Taylor is the contact person For Roswell Lutheran Women in Mission.



Pastor Brian Flamme



Pastor Reeder, Pecos Zone Counselor, is pictured installing Amanda Thomas, zone vice president and Sharla Yruegas, zone secretary.



Attendees at the rally.



More rally attendees.

NOMINATIONS WANTED

As Rocky Mountain District Archivist/Historian I am asking you to prayerfully consider being nominated to become a candidate for one of the following positions that are coming up for election in June 2026 at our RMD convention in Colorado Springs, CO.

All of these positions, except for the nominating committee, would entail a 4-year time commitment that would begin on June 7, 2026 and go until June 2030. The nominating committee position would be from July 2026 until the next biennium convention in June 2028. It is also expected that each executive officer writes an article for the *Tidings*, the RMD newsletter that is published 6 times per year.

President: Being President is one of the most challenging and fulfilling jobs you can have that exemplifies the true meaning of "serving the Lord with Gladness". You would be the leader of the Rocky Mountain District and be our representative at all district, zone and group events and be a member of the LWML Presidents Assembly. You would oversee 6 elected officers, coordinate appointments of 5 appointed officers & 5 special appointed personnel, and be an ex-officio member of all 10 standing committees.

VP of Gospel Outreach: Being VP of Gospel Outreach is all about Missions. You would be the coordinator of a department the consists of 5 major committees - Mission Grants, Mission Servants, Scholarship, Heart to Heart Sisters, and Deaf Ministry Liaison. As chair of the Mission Grants committee, you would oversee acceptance & review of mission grants applications, and prepare proposals for vote at each biennium convention.

VP of Servant Resources: Being VP of Servant Resources is all about encouragement through education & information, and building relationships. You would be first in line to take over the duties of President in case of emergency. You would be the coordinator of a department the consists of 3 major committees — Leader Development, Committee on Young Women, and Committee on Teens. As chair of the Leader Development Committee, you would oversee the creation and provision of ideas, techniques, and resources to aid in the process of increasing membership and interest in all aspects of being a Lutheran Woman in Mission.

Nominating Committee Member: As part of this committee, you would be one of five women from a slate of nine nominees (one from each zone) to be voted on at each RMD convention. Your duty would be to help choose two candidates for each elective office (EC officers and pastoral counselors) to be voted on for the biennium. For 2028, that would be VP Christian Life, VP Communications, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, as well as 9 candidates for the next cycle's Nominating Committee.



Susan Avila

HISTORIAN



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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.*

Psalms 121: 1-2



connect with us

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