

# Tidings



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

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## PATIENCE

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.* Ephesians 4:2 NIV

In addition to the regular articles by your officers, this issue is full to overflowing with convention information. Please have patience as you read through all the information.

At this years convention being held at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs there will be lots of engaging activities, speakers, service projects, and a raffle with handmade prizes. You can read more about it in this issue of *Tidings*.

Most importantly, we need you to be sure to register early and you will get a discount up until April 1st. While you are registering, be sure to get a room at the Antlers, and invite someone to attend with you to share the room cost.



Matthew 17:20b

You won't have to move mountains to get there so let's make this the biggest convention ever. Come for the Word, and be sure to spread the word..... Faith **can** move mountains.



Shelley Stewart  
PRESIDENT

## GOD'S LOVE IS STEADFAST

Patience this time of year seems to be a focus for everyone. Throughout Advent we are waiting for Christ to be born, and then His eventual return. However, it seems there is no greater example of impatience than at the stores this time of year. Everyone seems to be in a hurry. They are short with other customers, retail workers, and everyone else they come in contact with. It seems we are not a very good example or representative of Christ this time of year. Our opportunity is here for us to share the joy and wonder of the season. In the new year, it is our opportunity to

share the idea of fresh starts and new beginnings. Most of our New Year Resolutions don't last more than a couple days or weeks. Luckily for all of us, our God is a God of second chances. Lamentations 3: 22-23 tells us, ***The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.***

We can try again. God has patience with us in our failings. We are asked to do the same with each other.

## YOU'RE INVITED

### Hello LWMLers!

We have been working hard to prepare for the Convention in June at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. I would like to invite you to join us! Here are some of the things we have planned so far.

Instead of a MITE walk, plan to join us for MITE Bingo before the Convention, called by our own Pastor Piepkorn, who is also our keynote speaker. Prizes will be awarded to the winners, so prepare for some fun!

The Gifts From the Heart ingatherings will benefit:

- Lutheran Valley Retreat with sleeping bags, climbing shoes, tarps, board games/cards, masking tape, reams of paper, and ziplock bags.
- Orphan Grain Train with hygiene kits and school supplies.
- Navajo Lutheran Mission with art kits and gift cards.

Our Mission in Action speakers will be from Lutheran High School and Orphan Grain Train. Our enrichment speakers will be from Ysleta Mission, His Little Feet, and Shari Miller, our National LWML Representative. On Saturday night, the banquet entertainment will be Bri Jones on the guitar.

As you can see, we have a lot planned and a lot still to nail down. Plan to come! **Mark your calendars for June 5-7 in Colorado Springs at the Antlers Hotel. See you soon!**

# WAITING



I've never been very good with patience. I am getting better with age, but it's still a hard thing to deal with. Waiting on the Lord may be even harder. He has the ability to give us our heart's desire and whatever we ask. But He doesn't. Not always. They say that the three answers to prayer are, "Yes," "No," and "Not yet." Waiting is a very hard thing. Waiting for the stop light to turn green. Waiting for the line in the supermarket or WalMart to dwindle. Waiting for grandchildren. But waiting on the Lord is something that we should be content with at all times. For Christ has come and has given us all we need. Salvation. Forgiveness of sins. Eternal life. But as sinful humans, we desire more. Enough is never enough. The Psalms can help us in our times of frustration and patience. Read them and you will see that the psalmist deals with the same things that we deal with. Longing for justice, longing for peace, longing for deliverance. Psalm 13 begins by saying, ***How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?*** The psalmist feels abandoned. The psalmist feels lost. The psalmist feels alone. God has not answered his prayers and so he cries out to God. "How long?" We all have felt this way. Many, many times. Maybe right now. We feel that God has left us and moved on from us. That He doesn't care anymore. But He does. He cares for you very deeply. And just because

He has not answered your prayers in the way you want, doesn't mean that He doesn't care. He knows you and me better than we know ourselves. He is working in your life at this very second to bring all things to you in His time, and as He sees fit. He knows what is best and what is not best for us. Wait on Him and He will give you more than you deserve or desire.

And so we wait and wait and wait. ***I waited patiently on the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.*** Psalm 40:1 Use the words of the Psalms to help you in your lament and grief and pain and longing and patience. In Christ, God's love is already settled. He loves you more than you know. Wait on Him and He will deliver you. Keep asking, keep praying. The Lord will answer in His time. Rely on God's character, which is perfect and unshakable. The Lord may not answer your prayer the way you wanted, but remember God does answer prayer. Psalm 13 begins desperate and without hope, but it ends with confident hope in God and trust. ***But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.*** Blessings on your waiting on the Lord, waiting on His strength and on His peace.

Nathanael  
Biberdorf  
JUNIOR  
PASTORAL  
COUNSELOR



## MISSION GRANTS MITE PROGRESS

Andi Noblitt  
GOSPEL  
OUTREACH VP

REMEMBER TO  
SEND MITES TO:  
ANN  
HERNANDEZ  
LWML RMD  
TREASURER  
PO BOX 971848  
EL PASO, TX  
79997

		GRANTED	PAID
	Mt. Zion Lutheran, Boulder, CO	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Concordia Lutheran Radio Ministry, Sud-Est, Haiti	\$5,000	\$2,500
	Concordia Seminary Food Bank/Re-Sell It Shop	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Concordia University Acts 1:8 Fund	\$6,500	\$3,250
	CTTSFW Food and Clothing Co-op	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Kitchen Renovation at God Cares About You	\$8,000	\$8,000
	Mission Evangelical Luterana Confesionalen Honduras	\$6,500	\$3,250
	LHF Bible Books for Ghana's children	\$5,000	\$2,500
	Lutheran High School Missions (LuHi)	\$8,000	\$8,000
	MOST Ministries Feet on the Ground	\$6,000	\$3,000
	Orphan Grain Train Shipping Container	\$5,000	\$2,500
	Redeemer Lutheran School Scholarship	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Set Apart to Serve LCMS Office of Pastoral Education	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Math Curriculum/ Manipulatives Trinity Lutheran	\$5,000	\$5,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$63,000</b>

***Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*** Romans 12:12

Patience is more than just "waiting it out." It is a steady trust in God's timing, God's wisdom, and God's care. Whether we are facing personal challenges, ministry transitions, or uncertainties about the future, the Lord remains at work, even when we can not yet see His plan unfold. Patience becomes an act of faith—resting in the assurance that God is present, active, and faithful.

Even as we wait, we rejoice in hope. Hope keeps our eyes fixed on Christ, who has already secured our salvation and promises to guide His Church. This hope steadies us when answers are slow to come and reminds us that God's purposes are always good. Every mission effort, every gathering, every act of service rests on the joyful confidence we have in Jesus.

Prayer sustains us as we wait. It draws us back to the One who listens, responds, and strengthens His people. As Paul reminds us, we are called to be constant in prayer—bringing before the Lord our needs, our concerns, and our desire for faithfulness.

As the Mission Grants Committee reviews and considers grant requests for the upcoming biennium, we ask for your prayers. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would grant us patience, clarity, and unity as we discern how best to support Gospel-focused work. Pray also for the ministries seeking grants—that God would guide, bless, and provide for their service in His kingdom.

May the Lord fill us with patience in the waiting, hope that rejoices, and a spirit of continual prayer as we walk forward together in faith.

## PATIENCE

How do I have patience in leadership?

One of the hardest things about leadership is when things don't go as you planned. Maybe someone dropped the ball, or something unplanned popped up and all of a sudden poof! you have to refigure your plan! I completely understand. It is frustrating. The first thing to remember is that you are not doing this alone! Everything that we are doing is for God's glory and He has a plan! So when you are frustrated and patience is running low I recommend starting with a deep breath and a prayer. The next step is to remember that every person is dealing with their own personal obstacles. From the outside, sometimes it's hard to

see the obstacles in another's life and how difficult it is to navigate them. Have compassion and patience with one another. We are all working towards the same goal!

As a reminder, the zone applications for Young Women Representatives and Teen Representatives are live on the website! Ask your zone president about their deadlines, but all names are due to the district by April 1. If you have a young woman or teen that you think would benefit from attending, I encourage you to talk to them now! The convention will be here faster than you realize!



Christina Bean

SERVANT  
RESOURCES VP

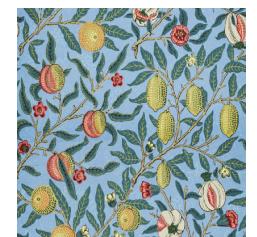
## PATIENCE

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12 NIV*

Patience is a virtue, but it can be very difficult to cultivate that virtue. I want to feel better and I want it now! I want my children to follow Christian teachings that we shared with them when they were young and I want them to do it yesterday! Patience is hard to practice. My husband says patience is one of those rare things that we ought to pray for, but we really don't want to pray for, like humility. I have to agree with him. I want what I want, yesterday! It is so hard to wait on the Lord.

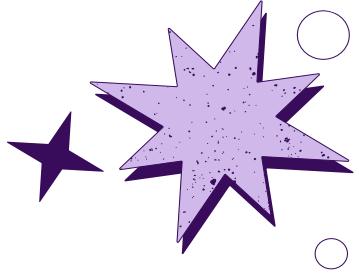
Patience is one of the fruits of the Spirit. It is not that we are to practice patience so much as that the Spirit gifts us with patience as we live and grow in our faith which is graciously granted to us through the sacrifice of our Savior, Jesus. I need to remind myself that God's timing is perfect, that He knows what is best for us, and He provides it to us when He knows we need it. He loves us, with all our faults and issues, and He gives us what we need in our daily challenges, especially patience. We are reminded that God is patient with us. His patience with us helps us to have patience, just as His love for us helps us to love, and His forgiveness enables us to be forgiving.

May God's gracious gift of Patience bless you this New Year.



MARGARET  
BLAZEK

CHRISTIAN LIFE  
VP



## CONVENTION REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 15TH



Registration for the  
2026 LWML Rocky Mountain District  
Convention will be online.  
No need to print or mail anything!

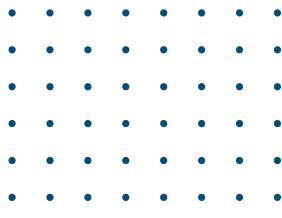
**Go to the LWML RMD  
Website to Register**



[https://www.lwmrlmd.org/  
convention](https://www.lwmrlmd.org/convention)

*Save Money!  
Early Registration  
Deadline is April 1*

Questions???  
Contact Us at  
[registrar@lwmrlmd.org](mailto:registrar@lwmrlmd.org)



# Projects

Operation Gratitude's mission is to say Thank You to Military and First Responders, and to honor their service by creating opportunities for all Americans to express gratitude.

*Help us tie paracord lanyards to provide service members or first responders with a tangible, lasting expression of gratitude. Lanyards are made with 5 feet of parachute cord that can hold up to 550 lbs. of weight and be used for many emergency applications.*

Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST Ministries) is a Christian non-profit organization that connects, trains, and sends short-term mission teams throughout the world, in response to requests from missionaries and church bodies.

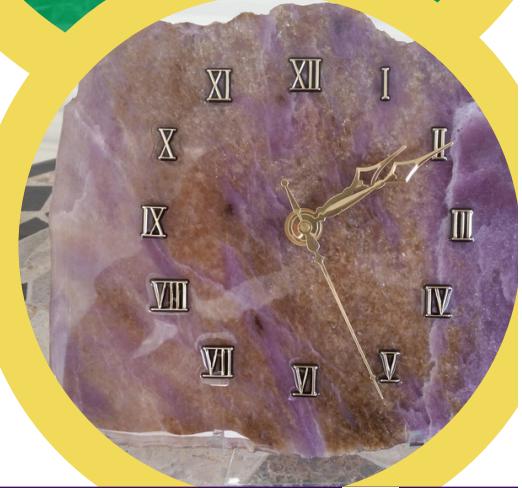
*Help us make Witness Bracelets that are used in the field as evangelism tools that breach the language barrier that would otherwise hinder Team Members from being able to share the Gospel.*

# CONVENTION RAFFLE

How do we encourage Convention attendance and participation? By offering prizes, of course! Adding to the fun of Convention this year, we will be raffling off beautiful handmade crafts made by our talented members and their spouses as well as some LWML swag!

## EARN TICKETS BY...

- Registering Early
- Purchasing the Meal Plan
- Playing BINGO for Mites
- Participating in Service Projects
- Being a First-Time Attendee
- Inviting a Friend Who Is A First-Timer
- And Much More



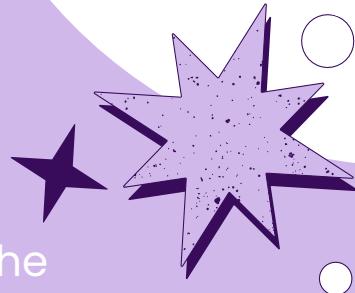
**WIN BIG!!!**





## THE ANTLERS, A WYNDHAM HOTEL

Tell them you are reserving with the  
"Rocky Mountain District Meetings 2026"  
to get the Convention rate of \$175!



**Registration Link Is  
On the LWML RMD  
Website!**

- Both 1 King and 2 Queen rooms are available.
- Room rate shown does not include taxes and fees.
- Rate will be honored up to 3 days both before and after the convention.
- All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card.
- Self-parking in the Antler's garage is complimentary
- Valet parking is available as an added convenience, the cost is \$22.00 per night with unlimited in and out privileges.



*Hotel Reservation  
Deadline is  
May 12, 2026*

You can also call the  
Antler's directly at  
719-955-5600 to book  
your room.



## A HEART FOR LUTHERAN VALLEY RETREAT

Lutheran Valley Retreat near Woodland Park, CO in the Southern Zone will be another one of the three recipients of our 2026 Gifts from the Heart Ingathering. LVR is a year round retreat and summer camp facility for all ages tucked away in the Pike National Forest. Their mission is to share God's grace and glory through His creation. If you choose to support this outreach, their Wish List includes a wide range of items in all price ranges.

LINDA HARSH

MISSION  
SERVANTS  
COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN

### **Lutheran Valley Retreat Wish List:**

Tarps 16 20' or larger

Reams of paper

Gallon or sandwich size Ziplock bags

Board/card games for rainy days with all the pieces

Climbing shoes in all sizes, new or gently used

Sleeping bags for needy campers, preferably 20 degree bags or colder, new or gently used

Here's a bit more info about the sleeping bags and climbing shoes:

- New sleeping bags should be purchased in an adult size
- Gently used sleeping bags can be adult or child sized
- Liners can be added to lighter weight used sleeping bags to make them warmer
- Look for climbing shoes in the climbing gear department of a sporting goods store, not in the shoe department
- Check with your kids/grandkids about used climbing shoes, they may know climbers willing to donate their extra shoes, or check in thrift stores near climbing areas
- Go together with other ladies to purchase the more expensive items or apply for a Thrivent card

The ingathering items for Orphan Grain Train will be the focus of this article in the next issue. See the previous issue for detailed information about the Art Kits and Gift Cards we are gathering for Navajo Lutheran Outreach. We hope one of these ingathering projects touches your heart!



Above is a photo from Risen Savior Women in Mission's annual Christmas Military Care Package outreach. This year we sent 25 boxes to our troops serving at home or abroad. Each box included treats for the body and soul. Project shared by Linda Harsh.

# Please Come and Enjoy

A Morning of Pre Convention  
Fun and Fellowship  
as we play

## BINGO FOR MITES

### Pastor Piepkorn (Guest Caller)

There was a Group, who had a mission,  
And Mites was its name-o

M-I-T-E-S!

M-I-T-E-S!

M-I-T-E-S!

And MITES was its name-o

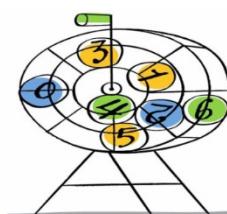


### Friday June 5, 2026

Time: 9-11

BRING YOUR MITE BOXES ALONG WITH  
PLENTY OF QUARTERS, DIMES, NICKLES, AND  
PENNIES

Mites go for both,  
National and District Mission Projects





## CONVENTION BANNER DIRECTIONS

The RMD Executive Committee is once again asking each zone to make a baby quilt/ lap blanket to be used as your zone banner that will be donated as part of "Gifts of the Heart" following the convention.

Suggested Size: 36" by 40"

Fabric Suggestion: Cotton Fleece, Soft Denim, Knit, Calico

Details:

- The baby quilt/lap blanket will be carried in the opening procession by the president, young woman representatives, and the teen representative from each zone.
- Zone names will be printed on a sign and handed out during processional practice and carried in by one of the zone representatives. Please have a card attached to the back of the banner on the lower right-hand side with the zone name and the person/church/group that made the banner.
- The baby quilt/lap blanket should include a casing on the back (that will fit a 1" dowel), a 1" dowel stick with an eye screw on each end, and a cord that can be tied to each eye screw with extra cord to hang from the knot. Lay the cord flat along the rod and knot it on the outside of each screw eye. The cord (heavy enough to support the weight of the banner) will stretch when the banner is hung.
- Each zone provides a banner pole and stand. Each zone will be assigned a spot for their banner.

Zone Banners will be displayed in the assigned banner area throughout the convention. Zones are welcome and encouraged to make more than one quilt/blanket; however, only one quilt/lap blanket will be used in the opening procession. Quilt/lap blanket designs may be based on the convention logo but is not required. Any theme, design, or color is acceptable. Talk to your zone president to submit an idea for your quilt/ lap blanket banner design. Let's put these banners to work as we share Jesus' love with others.

For questions contact Christie Peebles, VP of Communications at [communications@lwmlrmd.org](mailto:communications@lwmlrmd.org). These instructions for the banners can also be found on the lwmlrmd website under district convention and then zone banner information.



## CALLING ALL FUTURE CHURCH WORKERS

The Rocky Mountain District LWML has ten, \$500 scholarships to disburse every year to future church workers living within the district. Requirements are that your home church is within the district boundaries, and that you will be attending an LCMS Concordia college or seminary in the coming year. Applications are available on the LWML RMD website under Resources and Scholarship. Applications, transcripts, and letters of recommendation are due by June 1 of the current year. Congratulations to our current scholarship recipients Dan Hampton, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Olivia Rudzinski, Concordia University, Wisconsin; Aedan Kaplan, Concordia University, Wisconsin; Rebekah Saucerman, Concordia University, Chicago; and Kinsey Rahe, Concordia University, Nebraska!

**SUE  
FRAUENFELD**

Scholarship  
Committee  
Chairman

# CONVENTION BIBLE STUDY LEADERS



Rev. Duane Meissner, LWML RMD  
Senior Pastoral Counselor, hails from a rural town just outside of Austin, Texas. Chasing his first love of music he earned a bachelor's degree in church music conducting from Concordia University Texas before pursuing studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where he earned his MDiv degree and was ordained in 2011. Since then he has served as a parish pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Barnhart, Missouri, a career church planting missionary for the LCMS in

Belize, Central America, as the president of the Belize Mission Society (RSO), and as an urban missionary pastor at Resurrection in the City Lutheran Church in Denver, CO, where he still serves and lives with his wife of 21 years, Elizabeth, and their four children.



CHRISTIE  
PEEBLES  
VP  
COMMUNICATIONS



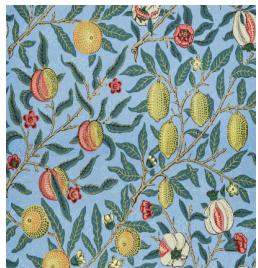
Pastor Nathanael Biberdorf, LWML Junior Pastoral Counselor, was born in Rolla, North Dakota and has lived in California and Missouri. He is a third generation LCMS Pastor whose father is now retired from active ministry and his parents now live in Tucson, Arizona along with a younger

brother who lives in Phoenix. He attended Brandman University for a bachelor's degree in Social Science before attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He graduated from the seminary in 2020 and received his first call to Zion Lutheran Church, Browns Valley, Minnesota and Zion Lutheran Church, Claire City, South Dakota. He served there from July 2020 until May 2024. He took a call to serve Zion Lutheran Church in Farmington, New Mexico where he has served since June 2024.

## PROCLAIMER

A graduate of Concordia University in Seward, NE, Pastor Gary Schuchske has a long list of positions and locations in his resume. He not only grew up in Colorado Springs, but also is currently serving at Faith Lutheran and has returned to living in the Colorado Springs area.

He loves to travel and has taught Bible workshops in Russia, as well as led mission trips to Latvia. He has loved leading his congregation to places such as Greece, Germany, and the Holy Land. Pastor has also completed certification in scuba diving. He is amazed that God has chosen to bring him *full circle*.



## CONVENTION PERSONALITIES

### Mission in Action Speakers

**Mike Kozimko** was born in Carson City, Nevada on November 10, 1949. He received a BS degree in geology from the University of Nevada-Reno in 1972 and a MS degree in geology from Iowa State University in 1977. Mike worked as a petroleum geologist/supervisor for Conoco and Yates Petroleum Corporation/EOG Resources for 40 years. He retired in 201



Mike and his wife Mary Ann live 35 miles south of Denver on 6 acres which overlook the Rocky Mountains. He is an avid deer hunter and enjoys watching the wildlife which frequent his property. Most of Mike's time is spent working on his property and volunteering at Orphan Grain Train in Castle Rock. He has been the Orphan Grain Train Castle Rock Coordinator for the past 4 years.

**Mary Hamilton** serves as Grant Manager for the Lutheran Chruch Missouri Synod where she provides leadership and oversight for grant administration in support of the church's mission and ministry priorities. In her role, Mary works closely with districts, congregations, and partner organizations to guide the grant process, ensure responsible stewardship of resources, and support initiatives that advance Gospel Outreach, education, mercy work, and church extension. Mary plays a key role in helping ministries navigate funding opportunities that strengthen and sustain Lutheran witness and service.



### Musicians

#### Saturday Banquet Entertainer: Bri Jones

Bri Jones is a singer-songwriter whose music blends the raw storytelling of folk with the soul-stirring depth of the blues. Born with an innate love for music, Bri has always turned to songwriting as a way to process the world around her. Her music is deeply personal, often drawing from her own experiences with medical hardships—both her own and those of her family. But rather than letting pain define her, she transforms it into something meaningful, using her songs to offer comfort and strength to others who are fighting their own battles. For Bri, music isn't just an escape; it's a lifeline, a way to remind herself and her listeners that no matter how heavy life gets, there's always a song to carry them through.

#### Song Leader: Angela Bellantoni

Angela has a Ph. D. in Environmental Sciences, and her company Environmental Alternatives, Inc. offers comprehensive environmental services. Angela also serves as the church organist and pianist at Saint John Lutheran Church in Canon City, Colorado. She loves to sing and was eager to serve LWML as the Song Leader for the Convention.

# MORE CONVENTION PERSONALITIES



## Enrichment Sessions

**Ysleta Lutheran Mission** (YLM) is a faith-based, 501c(3), non-profit organization that provides relief and human care services while planting and nurturing missions on the U.S./Mexico border (El Paso/Juarez region).

**His Little Feet** exists to help orphaned and vulnerable children worldwide. Their purpose is to give a voice to the millions of children around the world who do not have a voice. Headquartered in Windsor, CO, His Little Feet sponsors a touring choir comprised of participants from around the globe.

**Shari Miller** is the LWML Vice President of Christian Life and will represent the national organization at our convention

Shared by

Shelley Stewart

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Born in Minnesota, Pastor Gary Piepkorn, started out with a BA in agricultural economics and operated a dairy farm. He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary and then spent time with the Coast Guard and as an active duty Air Force Chaplain. After retiring from the Air Force, Pastor Piepkorn took a call to serve as a pastor at Faith in Christ Lutheran Church in Portales, NM. He continues to serve there.

He and his wife, Judy, have four children and 15 grandchildren as well as 2 great grandsons. They also own and operate a bed and breakfast in Portales. He also enjoys many outdoor activities including hunting.



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 15.....Convention Registration Opens
- February 6-7.....EC/BOD Meetings at Antlers Hotel
- March 30.....Mites for 23-25 Deadline
- April 1.....YWR and Teen names due from the Zones.
- April 1.....Last Day to Register Early
- May 12 .....Last Day to get your Hotel Reservation
- June 5-7.....Convention in Colorado Springs
- June 5, 9-11 am.....Bingo for Mites
- June 5, 9-11:30 am.....Pre-Convention Service Projects

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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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