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Lutheran Women's
Missionary League
Rocky Mountain District

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GOD'S CHILDREN

As Reverend Clint Thorsen writes in his article, we are more than defined by our upbringing, hometown, or education. We are Children of God! As Lutheran Women in Mission we are members of an organization that has deep roots, but we are also God's children. As such, we are called to serve in the ministry of the church. In this issue look for ways to serve as a child of God.

Written in 1955 by the Reverend Harry Fricke, the Lutheran Women's League Pledge describes our role as God's Children.

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

As you read over the pledge, apply His call for workers to yourself and think of ways that God has uniquely gifted you to serve Him as His child. Each article in this issue suggests a place for your service. God has need of us whether it is making a gift to the scholarship fund, saving Mites for our missions, participating in a convention, retreat, rally, or meeting, serving on or chairing a committee, being a prayer warrior, or representing the district at a national convention as a participant or a YWR. There are many ways to serve God as His child.

That's why our motto is:

Serve the Lord with Gladness! (Psalm 100:2)

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Christina Bean
PRESIDENT

THE IMPORTANT WORK WE DO

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-3 ESV

Hello! My fellow children of God! It does often feel like non-Christians can have a hard time relating to what we do and believe. It can be hard to find common ground and we don't know why.

Apparently, this is nothing new. Until others know Christ, they will not understand Christianity. That is part of what is so important about what we do in Lutheran Women in Mission and funding mission grants. By allowing others to hear the Word of God we allow them the opportunity to know Him.

I look forward to seeing many of you very soon as we proceed with fall rallies. I am attempting to attend as many rallies as I can personally, but I have many Executive Committee members who will be attending the rallies that I won't be able to make it to!

Also, please remember the application for District Young Women Representatives to attend national convention, will release October 15th and will be due January 15th. Every year this application deadline sneaks up on people because they wait until after Christmas to approach young women about applying! If you have a young woman that you think is a good candidate please talk to her early!



WHO ARE YOU ?

Hello, my name is Clint Olaf Thorson. I am excited and humbled that you have chosen me to be your LWML District Junior Counselor. I look forward to working and serving with you as well as getting to know all of you as we proclaim the name of the Lord in the Rocky Mountain District and the world. I thought I'd tell you a little about myself in my first *Tidings* article to help all of you get to know me a little better. Before I get into that though, I want you to think about this question, "Who are you?"

As you now know, my name is Clint Olaf Thorson. I was born and raised on a wheat farm in the eastern part of Colorado, north of a small town called Vona (between Burlington and Limon along I-70 on the map, if you are interested). We raised beef cattle until I was about a freshman in high school. I have attended way too much school, as I studied physics for three years at the Colorado School of Mines. I did not get a degree there, but transferred to Concordia University, Nebraska, and earned a degree in Theology after another three years. From there, I went on to attend Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis. After four more years, I graduated, and then I stayed an additional year for further education. Then, after eleven years of "post-high school" education, I took a call to Garland, Texas and served as the sole pastor at Tree of Life Lutheran Church. I was there for almost four years before taking the call to serve two churches in South Dakota, Our Savior Lutheran Church in Madison and St. John Lutheran Church in Howard. After about five and a half years in South Dakota, I accepted the Call to Eternal Savior Lutheran Church in Lafayette, CO, where I currently serve as sole pastor. I am married to a wonderful woman named Amber Marie Thorson (Schwartz), a Kersey, CO native, (near Greeley). We have four brilliant and beautiful daughters – Aliyah Marie (13), Anja Lynn (11), Ariana Nicole (7), and Adwyn Karina (4).

All the above is great, but I'd like to give another part of the picture of who I am as well. I started where we all did, as a dead man because of sin. Then on August 26, 1984, God called me through the waters of baptism to be different. He called me to life. He called me to be his son. He chose me to join his family and promised to always be my God. To be sure, I am a husband, a father, a pastor, a life-long student, and so many others things, but most importantly I am a forgiven child of God, bought by the blood of Christ and called by the Spirit through the Gospel. And that is what makes all the other things that I do and roles I fill so exciting, because I get to proclaim the excellencies of Him who redeemed me through them all. I get to be me because Jesus is who he is – my Lord, my Savior and my God.

Now, who are you? I asked you to think about that question before I got into my own life. What did you come up with? How did you answer that? If you are stuck, 1 Peter 2 gives you a great starting place, by reminding you that, ***{Y}ou are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*** God has called you to be his children. No matter what else has happened in your life, our Lord has called you to be his. Your sins are paid for by the precious blood of Christ. Now, our Lord has put us in partnership. We get to serve our churches and district and even the world together. We get to proclaim the freedom from sin that Jesus won for all. That is who we are. God's children called to proclaim His excellencies in both ordinary and extraordinary times. What a wonderful blessing for me and you. I look forward to living that blessing and working with you all in the LWML in the Rocky Mountain District. God's peace and blessings.



Clint Thorson

JUNIOR
PASTORAL
COUNSELOR



Karen Mann

GOSPEL
OUTREACH VP

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

MISSION GRANTS MITE PROGRESS

	GRANTED	PAID
Ysleta: Bringing the Gospel to Mexico Missions	\$10,000	
LVR City to Sanctuary Foster Kid Camp Fund	\$5,000	
Mercy Meals of Colorado Springs	\$8,000	
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch for At Risk Children	\$5,000	
Lutheran High School Parker Missions Program	\$10,000	
Child of God Lutheran: Expanding Access to Special Ed.	\$10,000	
CTSFW Food Co-op Freezers	\$10,000	
Lutherans in Medical Missions: Wellness and Gospel	\$10,000	
Phil's Friends Care Packages/Cards of Hope	\$5,000	
Giving Honor to the Least of These	\$7,500	
Lutheran's for Life Ministry Development	\$4,500	
	Total \$85,000	

MISSION GRANT UPDATE

"Child of God Lutheran Equipping All God's Children: Expanding Access to Special Education" is one of the mission grants selected at the 2026 LWML RMD convention. It holds a special place in my heart since my daughter works with children with autism and I have a niece that has two children with autism. This grant will bless and strengthen families and ensure that all students, regardless of learning differences, can hear the Gospel and grow in faith. You can find out more about this grant and others on the LWML RMD website under Mission Grants 2026-2028 (<https://www.lwmlrmd.org/missions>).

When you drop money into your Mite Box, think and pray for the grant recipients. Remember our Mite Boxes are also Mite Blessings!

Mite Boxes are available from the Rocky Mountain District (RMD) and/or your RMD Zone. Use these boxes to collect money (coins and/or bills) that will be sent to the RMD Treasurer. They are then distributed as follows:

- Mites Boxes are used to collect money for missions.
- Twenty-five percent (25%) of the mites is sent to national LWML for funding missions grants and administration of the national LWML.
- The RMD keeps seventy-five (75%) of mites for funding district grants.

MITE BOX–MITE BLESSING

Mite Boxes are used to collect money for mission grants. The grants are selected by delegates at both the district and national conventions where they become a blessing for many in the RMD and throughout the world.

I didn't hear about LWML and Mites until I was as at a small country church. Their LWML group was active both in the church and in the community doing different events where the proceeds went to Mites. For me, the best part of helping at the different events was knowing proceeds were going to fund mission grants that helped so many people, locally and around the world.

You can place your Mite Box in many places: office, bedroom, kitchen, laundry room, car, etc. At my house we collect

coins and dollars on laundry day. My family knows when I check pockets before putting clothes in the washing machine any money found in pockets goes in the Mite Box. Doing laundry one day, I removed a \$20 bill from a pair of pants. I loudly said "LWML thanks you", my husband sighed and gave me a smile. Most of the time I only find change, yet that still adds up. Find tricks that work in your home. Be sure to share Mite Boxes with your friends and family. There is also the *Monthly Mite Challenge Calendar/ Monthly Pray Calendar* on the National LWML website (<https://www.lwml.org/posts/free-resources/mite-challenge-calendar>) where you can pray for national grants and drop some money in your Mite Box. The more mites collected; the more mission grants can be funded.



Karen Mann

GOSPEL
OUTREACH VP

RESOURCES FOR GOD'S CHILDREN

It's the time of year that I reminisce about school and especially Vacation Bible School/VBS, I have participated in since the age of 2 almost 3—was allowed to go because my mom was a helper/teacher and (bonus) I was potty trained too. Much anticipation for me, as I had an older sister and brother that were concerned that I might say or do something to embarrass them. On one of the days my teacher asked me to lead us in prayer, I panicked and recited John 3:16 to which the teacher said, "That's a nice Bible verse but that's not a prayer." It still hurts to think about it, but her comment was meant as constructive criticism. Prayer is just conversation with God and he leads us in the words to say. SOOO, sometimes I say John 3:16 and think about the words it leads us by.

One thing I wish we still had at VBS is buddy boxes. They contained the 2 weeks worth of Bible stories and projects, age appropriate for kids. They were our resources and as for myself. I felt like I belonged when I saw my name written on the buddy box.

These VBS examples make me think about Servant RESOURCES – from planning, praying, and organizing there are resources to help. Jesus is available 24/7. Use our lwmlrmd.org website to help you. Go to the National LWML website: lwml.org for assistance. Did you also know we have an LWML app? Need to update or write Bylaws? Call or email us (our contact information is on the last page of the Tidings).



Paula Evans

SERVANT
RESOURCES VP



HEIDI NORTON
CHRISTIAN LIFE
VP

CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

Our children are currently in the interesting stage of “launching”. It can be challenging to watch from afar as they navigate early adulthood and all the new experiences — sometimes successfully and other times, not. We can give advice, encourage, warn, and cheer them on; but ultimately we are no longer in control. And there are no guarantees! But this is normal and right, even if not always fun. What parent desires their kids to remain children forever? We want them to become independent! And even once they are adults, we hope they strive to keep learning and growing and improving.

What about in our life of faith? Is our goal to become independent and capable of taking care of ourselves? To graduate from needing God’s help in our day-to-day lives? I hope all of you reading this can join me in a loud, “NO!” Growing in our faith is the opposite of “launching”. As Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:3-4, He wants us to become more like children, not less! More trusting, less controlling. More humble, less self-important. More aware of our daily dependence on our Creator! As it says in the Small

Catechism’s explanation of the First Article of the Creed, *He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.* We are imperfect, foolish children but He is worthy of our complete trust and confidence. And true Christian maturity is growing in understanding this.

How can we get this through our thick skulls? It is a daily re-orientation. We so sinfully keep putting our own desires, our own selves ahead of our Lord’s will. It takes His Holy Spirit to enlighten us and help us to daily remember that He is our Father and that we are not in charge. Reading and studying scripture daily is a great way to do this. Because we need reminding over and over and over. But we have a patient God! He is the most perfect Father, beyond any earthly father. And so we need to keep our eyes on Him! Because we often look more at the problems around us than at the one who is the Answer. I pray we can all remember that we are His beloved children. *I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.* John 10:27b-28.

BELINDA
BURMEISTER

RETREAT
CHAIRMAN

SAVE THE DATE

The LWML RMD Retreat will be **September 10-12, 2027**, at Cathedral Ridge Event Center, Woodland Park, CO. This is also an opportunity for God’s children to gather to share in Bible study and other retreat activities. Donna Snow will be the Bible Study Leader featuring her new book on *Daniel*. More information regarding the Retreat will be available soon. Planning for the retreat is ongoing at this time.

PECOS ZONE RALLY

Pastor Thaine Kister of Grace Lutheran Church, Hobbs, NM, was the Bible Study Leader for the LWML RMD Pecos Zone Fall Rally, August 22, 2026, in Hobbs. The theme for the rally was based on the 2026 LWML RMD Convention theme: **Faith That Can Move Mountains**. Seventeen ladies and four pastors attended.

LWML RMD Pecos Zone Pastoral Counselor Rev. Thomas Reeder of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Clovis, NM, installed newly elected zone officers: Below, L to R: Kathy Eyster of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Ruidoso, NM, as Zone President and Kathryn McWilliams of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Ruidoso, NM, as Zone Treasurer.



LWML RMD President Christina Bean (bottom left photo) presents her first district report to societies at this rally. She shared district information regarding the 2026 Convention, the upcoming plans for the 2028 convention, and the Fall Retreat to be held September 10-12, 2027, at the Cathedral Ridge Retreat Center in Woodland Park, CO; Donna Snow will be the Bible study leader basing her Bible study on the book of *Daniel*. President Christina encouraged attendees to: volunteer to serve on a district committee, update their bylaws, send in change of officer forms for societies and zones, have students in our district who are studying to be full-time church workers submit a scholarship application to our district Scholarship Committee, share information with the young women in their congregations regarding our district Young Woman Representative Program for the 2027 National LWML Convention in Oklahoma City, OK, and continue to donate to our Scholarship and Special Gift Funds, as well as, mites for our Mission Grants.



SYLVIA BEAN

PECOS ZONE



ART KITS BRING SMILES

LINDA HARSH

MISSION
SERVANTS
COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

This summer Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Navajo, New Mexico hosted two separate VBSs, one with the help of a team from Colorado and the other with a team from Massachusetts. Here's an update from Heidi Norton to let us know that the art kits are bringing happiness to so many. "The art kits have been a huge hit! We have been enjoying seeing the joy and excitement they have given the kids. And even the teenagers and young adults are thrilled to have them! We give them out at the end of VBS time to any kid who hasn't yet received them, and most of them come back bringing some of their supplies and using them the next day. It's been so fun!"

God is blessing the art kits and extra items we gathered for Navajo Lutheran Outreach! The train set is one of those extra donations, the children are loving it. Ladies, thank you for sharing the love of Jesus by participating in this *Gifts from the Heart* project.

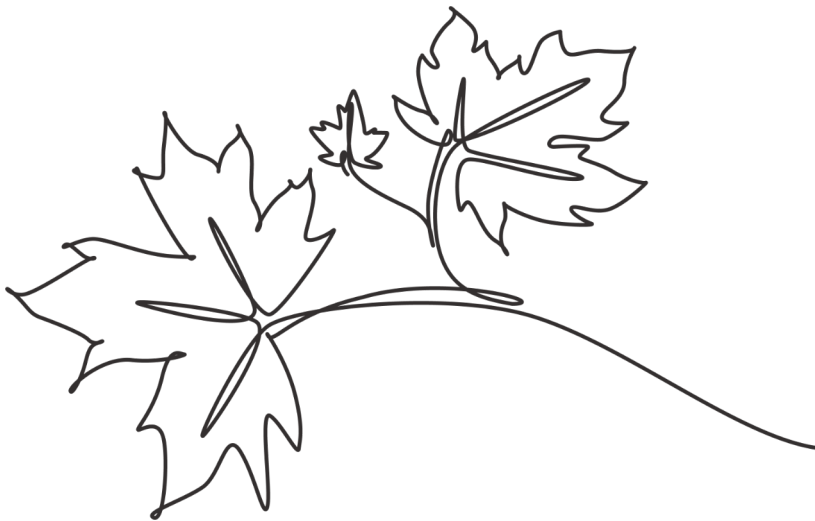


FALL RALLY SCHEDULE



August 22:	Pecos (Grace, Hobbs)
September 12:	Four Corners (St Paul's, Durango) North Central (Faith, North Denver)
September 19:	Western (Grace Fellowship, Gypsum)
September 26:	Northeastern (Holyoke) Rio Grande (Trinity Lutheran, Alamogordo)
October 3:	South Central (Ascension, Aurora)
October 10:	Southern (Family of Christ, Falcon)
October 17:	Northern (Beautiful Savior, Bloomfield)
October 24:	Northern NM (Christ Our Redeemer, Albuquerque)

FALL RALLY
SCHEDULE





Sylvia Bean
DebbieLarson

CONVENTION NEWS

GOD'S CHILDREN MEET AND GROW

2026 District Convention a success! It seems amazing that it has now been several months since our district convention in Colorado Springs, CO, where we met as God's children and focused on Faith That Can Move Mountains and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to "trust in the Mountain Mover. *For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.* (Matthew 17:20b).

Thank you! Thank you to all who helped with the convention and to those who attended and participated. It was a wonderful time for our sisters and brothers in Christ to be in the Word, as we learned and celebrated together how the "Mountain Mover" works in our lives, and the importance of trusting Him to move our mountains according to His will.

Convention Evaluations: The evaluations confirmed that our ladies preference is to meet in person and not online. The majority of attendees who sent in an evaluation felt the convention was beneficial in helping them grow in their faith and was a "mountain top" experience. The majority wanted more than a one day convention, would consider meeting somewhere other than a hotel, but stated that shortening the length of the convention was acceptable. Attendees felt having the convention in the most central locations only may lead to better attendance. There were 172 attendees and 61 filled out evaluations. We do indeed read the evaluations and work to incorporate suggestions given in the evaluations.

National 2027 LWML Convention: As we look toward next year, we are privileged to gather together with other children of God for the 2027 LWML National Convention in Oklahoma City, OK, July 8-11, 2027. The theme is Transformed in Christ based on Romans 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* Christian author and presenter Deb Burma will be the Bible study leader. Begin planning now to attend. Convention shirts are available for order.



Romans 12:2

Looking forward to 2028: The RMD Executive Committee and the Events Planning Committee have already begun preparations for God's children to gather for the 2028 LWML RMD Convention in the Denver area. Included in this area: Northglenn, Lakewood, Arvada, Wheat Ridge, Thornton, and Denver. We are looking for convention co-chairs for this event. If you have a suggestion of names for zone leadership roles for the convention or are part of the North Central Zone or Western Zone and would be willing to be a co-chairman or a committee chairman for this convention, please contact Debbie Larson and Sylvia Bean, Western Zone President, Nancy Kraft, or North Central Zone President, Judy Delve. We look forward to working together to make the 2028 convention a blessing to all attending.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

A new biennium brings new officers. The new officers are consequently looking to form their committees and need new chairmen as well as willing committee members! Please consider helping out with one of these roles.

President Christina Bean is looking to fill committee and appointed positions. Some of the needs include a Heart to Heart Sisters Committee Chairman, a Scholarship Committee Chairman, a Social Media Administrator, a Committee on Young Women Chairman, and a Teen Committee Chairman. All of these chairmen will need committee members. The old saying, ***Many hands makes light work, applies here.***

Although it is nearly 2 years away, Sylvia Bean and Debbie Larson are looking for Women in Mission to be Co-Chairmen for the District Convention in 2028. Those co-chairs will then need people to help with exhibits, transportation, and registration. It takes lots of helpers and months of planning to organize.

There is always concern about dwindling membership and societies. Prayer is the number one activity we can each do to counteract this trend. Good communication in advance of LWML activities and functions also helps. Personal invitation has always been the #1 action that promotes attendance and participation in any event. Keep these ideas in mind as you plan for upcoming meetings and programs. The LWML website also has many free resources to help, including Bible Studies, Crafts, Devotions, Mission Grant Resources, and of course the ever popular sketch!

Lutheran Women in Mission needs you, please contact President Christina today! president@lwmlrmd.org

ATTENTION YOUNG WOMEN

Applications open October 15 to become a Young Woman Representative to the National Convention in July 2027. The application deadline is January 15, 2027. Find the application online at lwmlrmd.org after October 15.

A Young Woman Representative (YWR) is any mature young woman preferably 22-35 years of age, who is a member of the LCMS and has not previously attended a National Convention as a YWR.

LWML RMD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Did you know that the Rocky Mountain District has an Endowment Scholarship Fund? It is established to provide scholarships to LCMS students, living in the Rocky Mountain District, who are studying for full time church work. You can make contributions to this fund or encourage any student you know who meets the criteria, to apply. Contact treasurer, Ann Hernandez, to make a donation.



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CHRISTINA BEAN

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