

# Tidings

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## Contents

President	2
Pastoral Counselor	3
2019 Fall Rallies	4
Mites	4
Convention Highlights	5
Mission Grants	6
Servant Resources	7
Christian Life	7
Addresses	8



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## In Praise to the Lord!

The 2019 convention in Mobile, Ala. was filled with praises, joy, and many adventures. Weather proved challenging to get to convention and then home again. There was much walking and plenty of sunshine. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison even dropped into the convention to share greetings and a gift of banjo playing.

Read President Debbie's article (page 2) to catch up on the happenings at convention and check out photos from the convention (page 5). See the completed banner and the hands which designed and made it (Sue Giddings and Anita Palenschat). Southern belles greeted arrivals at the airport as well as attendees at the convention hall. Jan Struck's Glory Mae character brought laughter throughout the days and Bible study leader Donna Pyle had everyone thinking more about the theme verse. The procession of flags of those countries where we support the spreading the Gospel is always impressive. So check out the photos in this issue of the *Tidings* and see the livestreams in action for convention highlights at [livestream.com/thelwml](http://livestream.com/thelwml). Thank you to the ladies who contributed photos for the *Tidings*. It's wonderful how you serve the Lord with gladness.

Upcoming events where you can join in include the fall rallies—dates and locations are listed on page 4—the first two are August 24, 2019. You are always welcome to join other zones as well. June 5–7, 2020, the LWML Rocky Mountain District will celebrate its 50th convention in Keystone, Colo. with the theme “Be Still” based on Psalm 46:10. 🌿

*Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!*



Debbie Yocky  
PRESIDENT

*Rejoice always,  
pray without  
ceasing, give  
thanks in all  
circumstances;  
for this is the will  
of God in Christ  
Jesus for you.*

*— 1 Thess. 5:16-18  
2018-2020 Biennium  
Theme Verses*

How can you have a mountain top experience at sea level? Attend the LWML convention in Mobile, Ala. It doesn't matter where we gather or how many obstacles we need to overcome to get there (or back), gathering together as Lutheran Women in Mission is life changing.

What makes it so special? When I gather with over 3000 mission minded women, pastors, youth and husbands, I am reminded of the scope of the LWML mission. We sang praises to the Lord, received Holy Communion and engaged in Bible study. We were fed in so many ways over the few days we were in Mobile.

We were encouraged and inspired by Mites in Action Speakers. Each Mission in Action speaker spoke so eloquently about their mission that I was moved to tears frequently they shared their stories. It is amazing to hear how God is working in our world. The LWML is making an eternal difference in the world through the prayers and generous gifts of each one of you. I saw such an outpouring of love through the offerings, gifts of love donations, and Mission in Motion Pledge Walk participation.

Many women participated in servant events and Pre-convention Seminars on Thursday. The Rocky Mountain District was well represented. Many of the volunteers from the Albuquerque convention decided to attend this convention to see what they only glimpsed while working so diligently in 2017. They had VIP seating that allowed them to see and hear everything going on. I saw many of their smiling faces. We had at least five first time attendees including two of our delegates. Many

of our frequent convention attendees including Ruth Eberle from Artesia, N.M. were also in Mobile. Ruth has attended at least 16 national conventions. wow!!

I was honored to carry our Rocky Mountain District banner in the banner procession on Friday morning. The banner was very unique and beautiful. Thank you to Sue Giddings and Anita Palenschat for creating it. Our YWRs, Julie Tibbetts and Christina Bean, and our Heart to Heart Sister Leader Diane Rahe also participated in the banner procession. On Saturday, 81 YWRs and 12 H2H Sister Leaders led the Saturday morning procession which highlighted 76 flags representing countries where the LWML has supported a mission grant.

Evening entertainment from sand artist Joe Castillo and the Voices of Mobile were a wonderful way to end busy days.

A mission goal of \$2,100,000 for the 2019-2020 biennium will fund 21 LWML Mission Grants including a grant from Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas.

Debbie Larson was elected President. Debbie moved to the Rocky Mountain District two years ago and resides in Florissant, Colo. I look forward to working with Debbie. Please continue to support her with your prayers as she begins her work as LWML President.

Past RMD President Sylvia Bean was selected as a member of the Nominating Committee. Please keep her in your prayers.

These few words do not fully capture the experience of an LWML convention. The city of Mobile

*Continued on page 4.*

# The Voice

*I and the Father are One.* John 10:30

Many of you reading this article have just returned from the LWML 38th Biennial Convention held in Mobile, Ala. under the theme “In Praise to the Lord!”. The theme verse was, *Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations* (1 Chronicles 16:23–24a).

Tomorrow morning, if you went to the Post Office and heard the voice of someone on the corner boasting, “I and the Father are one”, how would you react? You might walk away. You might get back into your car or start walking all to come back later. You might even call 911! Well, neither did the Jews believe that Jesus was true God as He claimed by saying, *I and the Father are one*. The very next verses in John 11 record that they even picked up stones to hurl at Him for such blasphemy. A mere man, claiming to be God. Blasphemy!

What if those people were right? If Jesus is not God, then at best he was only a PHD in Old Testament literature. A famous character two thousand years ago that appeared for thirty years in human history. Jesus was merely a blip on the radar.

At worst, Jesus was and continues to be, the world’s greatest con-man. Either way, Jesus would be no Savior, which would leave every Christian believer in hopeless despair. You would have no Savior from your sins because His death meant nothing. There were no Easter resurrection witnesses. He provides no victory over death. Faith in Him is in vain and useless. You and I are still in our sins and death is terminal.

In all sincerity and without misusing the Lord’s name, thank God they were wrong! Jesus is true God. When He told the Jews, *I and the Father are ONE*, He was claiming to be God in the very same way that God the Father is God. Jesus is the confession of the Old Testament faithful, *Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one* (Deut. 6:4).

Jesus has the same divine nature that the Father and the Holy Spirit have. Jesus proved that by rising from the dead on Easter morning just as He promised and just as countless people witnessed! And that means that every other promise is also true.

But at the same time, Jesus is not the Father. Jesus also makes that distinction when He says that “I and the Father are one.” Jesus is of one nature with the Father, but He is also distinct from the

Father. The Father sent Him, the Son, into the world of His creating to be the Savior of His creation.

Since Jesus is true God, He has the power, the ability, and the nature, to accomplish everything the Father sent Him to do. His perfect life, innocent suffering and death, and His victorious resurrection in deed and in fact, accomplished your salvation. Jesus is then your connection to God the Father. And through Jesus, you have access to the Father in every need of yours.

That’s what I think of when I see or hear of the television program, “The Voice”. Jesus is THE VOICE of God Himself. He came to share a human nature with His creation, to be on our side, to be our Savior, that no one could separate us from Him.

The Lord has also given YOU a voice. To “Praise the Lord”, to “Sing to the Lord”, to “Tell of His salvation”, and to “Declare His glory among the nations”. And that, in whatever station He has placed you or in whatever vocation He has given you. 🌿



Pr. Trent Christensen

SENIOR PASTORAL COUNSELOR

*In Christ's Service*

*President's article continued from page 2.*

welcomed us with open arms—even lighting up some of the buildings in purple. If you did not have a chance to attend the Mobile convention or watch the Livestream, I encourage you to go the LWML website and watch the Livestream videos.



I hope to see many of you at your fall rallies where I will be sharing more information about the Mobile convention and begin sharing

information about our 2020 district convention in Keystone.

Thank you for your continued prayers and mite offerings to support our 13 Rocky Mt. District mission grants. Donations are often lower in the summer months. Be creative with ideas to kick off the year with a renewed interest in mission grants.

If you are interested in serving on a national committee, please fill out a Personnel Resources Form available on the LWML website. Committee appointments will be made in August. 🌿

*Debbie*



2019 Fall Rallies

- 🌿 August 24: Northern, St. John's, Fort Collins, Colo.
- 🌿 August 24: South Central, Immanuel, Englewood, Colo.
- 🌿 September 14: Western, Immanuel, Paonia, Colo.
- 🌿 September 21: Pecos, Immanuel, Carlsbad, N.M.
- 🌿 September 28: Southern, Faith, Woodland Park, Colo.
- 🌿 October 5: Northeastern, Zion, Holyoke, Colo.
- 🌿 October 12: Four Corners, Shepherd of the Valley, Navajo, N.M.
- 🌿 October 19: Rio Grande, Zion, El Paso, Tex.
- 🌿 October 19: N. New Mexico, Immanuel, Albuquerque, N.M.
- 🌿 October 26: North Central, Peace, Arvada, Colo.



Each month, a mites calendar is available on our website ([lwmlrmd.org/missions](http://lwmlrmd.org/missions)) for you to print. Enjoy some fun ideas for adding coins to your mite box.

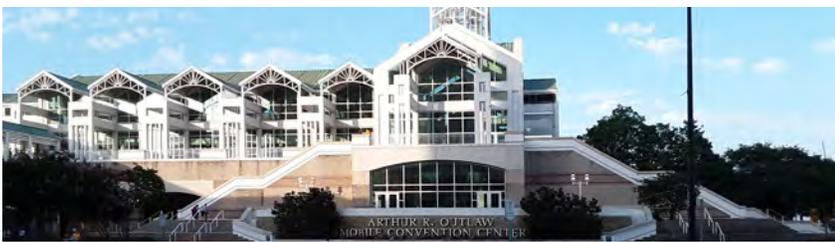
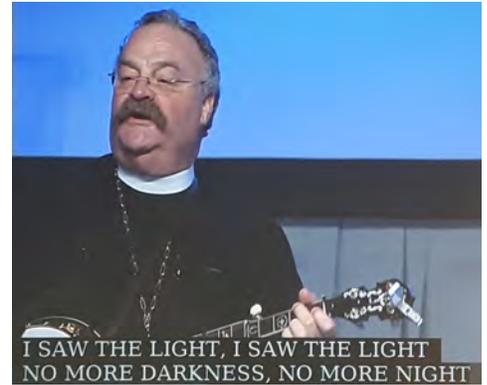
When you send in your mites to the district, you support our Rocky Mt. District grants (page 6) as well as national LWML's. You can support the Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Tex. through your mite giving today. Thank you. 🌿

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In Praise to the Lord!

MOBILE, ALA.  
2019





Amy Schultz

VP GOSPEL  
OUTREACH

## 2018–2020 Biennium Mission Grants Recipients

	Granted	Paid
Intern at Navajo Reservation in New Mexico	\$9,600	\$3,500
Trinity/HOPE	\$5,000	\$2,000
University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder	\$6,000	\$4,000
Messiah Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado Mesa University	\$6,000	\$4,000
Fostering Faith in the Forest (LVR)	\$5,000	\$2,500
St. Andrew Lutheran Church Plant	\$6,700	\$3,500
Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission	\$7,500	\$4,750
Lutherans for Life Post-Abortion Crisis Hotline	\$5,000	\$2,500
The Table at Bethlehem Lutheran Church	\$5,000	\$2,500
Financial Assistance for Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op	\$8,000	\$3,000
To Establish Lutheran Seminary in Sierra Leone	\$10,000	\$5,500
Lutheran Books for Missionaries around the World	\$5,000	\$3,250
Dominican Republic Disability Ministry (partial)	\$3,514	\$3,514
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$82,314</b>	<b>\$44,514</b>



Becky Meyer

MISSION GRANTS  
COMMITTEE

## Sierra Leone Mission Grant

Project Pastoral Education, West Africa (PPEWA) offers ongoing pastoral education courses and support provided by the Concordia Institute for Christian Studies to the pastors of Lutheran Churches in countries throughout West Africa: Sierra Leone, Liberia, The Gambia, and Ghana. Since 2007, in Sierra Leone, PPEWA has been assisting pastors to become better leaders in their churches in the midst of a great pastoral shortage (16 ordained pastors for 159 congregations). Now they are assisting the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in establishing a seminary in Sierra Leone. In 2018 they have made

great strides in this effort, including beginning construction of a library and classroom for the seminary, conducting 3 training sessions to equip 10 future seminary faculty members, and adopting a strategic plan for the new seminary. God willing, they will begin instruction of the first seminary class in 2019. The \$10,000 grant will cover some travel and lodging expenses for the three LCMS pastoral instructors (2 of whom are from the Rocky Mountain District) who volunteer for two weeks to provide advanced theological education to these men, helping to impact the spread of the Gospel in West Africa. 🌿

## Remembering our Training

There was a fight on my son's bus the other day. Apparently an older kid was picking on a younger kid, but didn't count on the arrival of that kid's twin. Needless to say, the older kid was on the losing end.

Although our sinful human selves gratify in the justice of someone getting what they deserve (at least I did), my son stayed up late that night because he wanted to pray for all three boys. He told me that because the "world is broken by sin" we have to pray all the more that everyone will see their error and repent.

This warmed my heart, because I heard the words my husband

and I use to explain to the kids the "bad" of the world. I also stopped to thank God that they were repeating good things, and not the filth that sometimes comes from my mouth. It made me think of Proverbs 22 verse 6: *Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.* I also recognized that God was using my middle school son to give me a gentle reminder that I also was taught the way I should go, and that I need to be cautious of what I say and do. My children aren't the only ones listening. 🌿



Shelley Stewart

VP SERVANT  
RESOURCES

## Christian Life Resources and LWML Sunday 2019

*Perseverance* is the new Bible study written by Donna Pyle. The study is based on the Book of Nehemiah about prayer and praying through life's challenges. Other new women's studies are also available through Concordia Publishing House. *Enough for Now* written by Sharla Fritz is a study unpacking God's sufficiency and *Joy: A Study of Philippians* written by Deb Burma will both be available soon. More details to follow.

New store items will be available at the fall gatherings. Restocking is in progress.

A new resource available from LWML is a "Mailbox Member Program." This is a program designed to help women stay connected even if they are unable to participate in every scheduled activity at church. Check it out at the LWML website.

The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time.

"Faith Like a Mustard Seed" is the theme for LWML Sunday 2019, based on Jesus' words in Luke 17:6 that faith as small as a mustard seed can move a mulberry tree. We may long for a greater and more heroic faith, but what about the faith we have right now? LWML Sunday 2019 celebrates the power of a daily walk with Jesus to transform lives and multiply disciples. Little faith or great, there are mulberry trees to be moved!

LWML Sunday 2019 materials, authored by Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, will be available July 2019. To ensure availability and delivery, all LWML Sunday orders should be placed before September 1, 2019. 🌿



Beth Nagy

VP CHRISTIAN LIFE

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