

# Tidings

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League Rocky Mountain District

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

*Psalm 46:10*



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## On the Road Again ... A President's Song

Over the past three months, all 11 of the LWML Rocky Mountain District zones gathered together for Fall Rallies, including Eastern High Plains. I was blessed to attend nine of the 11 rallies. I traveled over 5,000 miles over eight weekends to almost every corner of the Rocky Mountain District. What an amazing journey!

Each hosting congregation and the zone officers spent many hours in preparation for the rallies. Thank you to all the women who prepared meals, created decorations and prepared rally materials. Each rally had a different theme but shared a common heritage.

Each of our zones is facing challenges as numbers of active members and groups decline. Fewer women are willing or able to serve as zone officers. But in spite of the challenges, we continue to gather. We studied the Bible, worshiped and sang, and gathered items to care for the needs of others. We laughed, hugged, and ate together.

**August 24.** First stop was the Northern Zone Rally in Ft. Collins, Colo. The ladies of the Northern Zone tied the guest speaker Pastor George Hesse's presentation of *Malcolm and the Magic Shoe* together with table decorations of beautiful flower arrangements in tennis shoes. Too soon I was back on the road heading south on I-25 through Denver to attend the South Central Rally in Englewood. The South Central ladies started their day with a concert featuring Adam's Road before the business meeting. The Denver traffic through construction made the journey between the two rallies longer than expected.

**September 14.** My husband, Dave, was my chauffeur to Paonia, Colo. I'm not sure I would have made it over the winding mountain passes on my own. The rally theme was based on my favorite Bible verses: Psalm 121:1-2 *I lift my eyes to the hills.* Women from Montrose attended and are considering forming a new LWML group. I even found a few moments to relax at a local winery.

*Continued on page 2.*



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

*Continued from page 1.*

**September 21.** Pecos Zone Rally in Carlsbad, N.M. I enjoyed time with former district president Sylvia Bean and former Pastoral Counselor Gary Piepkorn. These faithful servants are continuing to serve the LWML in many ways. One of our YWRs, Christina Bean, as Pecos Zone Vice President presided over the rally as Zone President Brittnie Clark was not able to travel due to the impending arrival of her second child. Christina did an amazing job presiding over the rally!

**September 28.** Southern Zone Rally where LWML President Debbie Larson and the ladies from her Woodland Park, Colo. congregation served as our hostesses. The theme was “Nurturing Faith for all Ages.” Steve Johnson from LVR provided an update on one of our mission grants.

**October 5.** Northeastern Zone Rally’s theme was “The Tie that Binds.” The ladies used beautiful quilts to decorate the rally space. Each society is asked to participate in a devotion, prayer, or sketch ensuring that most groups attend.

**October 12.** I was thrilled to attend the Four Corners Fall Rally at the Navajo Mission. What a wonderful day joining in fellowship with our Navajo LWML sisters. Pastor Tim Norton led us in Bible study and we had time to get to know each other as we enjoyed a lunch of Navajo tacos. Table decorations incorporated the Navajo culture with the flower-filled moccasins. Louise Lee, a member of the Mission who attended the LWML Sioux Falls Convention as a Heart to Heart Sister, shared that having the LWML women at the Mission was a dream

come true. I can’t wait to go back and spend more time with my LWML sisters at Navajo, N.M.

**October 19.** I was able to spend the weekend at home as I attended the Northern New Mexico Zone Rally. The day was filled with fun and fellowship as we engaged in devotions and tea with a theme of “Spiritualitea.” The rally was well attended and there were four first-time attendees. We were asked to bring our favorite tea cup and wear fascinators (fancy tiny hats). I have to say that is the first time I have done a presentation while wearing a fascinator. I chose wisely...it matched my outfit (purple) and it didn’t budge all day long.

**October 26.** The final rally was North Central Zone. Eileen Diepenbrock did a great job presiding over her first rally. What a wonderful day of fellowship with my LWML Sisters. Pastor Tim Lindeman led a Bible study *I Will Give You the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven*. Gift cards were gathered to send to the Navajo mission.

“What a journey. It is such an honor to serve as your Rocky Mountain District President. I am so glad that I was able to spend time with so many of you. Each women I met is making a difference in the world through her service within her local congregation, service in the zone and district, and through her faithful mite giving. Thank you for taking time to attend a fall rally. Thank you for your patience with technical difficulties. Your smiles and hugs are the fuel that kept me going weekend after weekend. Each of our zone presidents did an

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# Grace is for Everyone

*So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.*

(Romans 11:5, 6)

The Christian Church is just beginning to celebrate, now the 502th Anniversary of the Reformation. On October 31, 1517 Luther posted 95 theses (or issues) that he wished to debate among church leaders. Number 62 reads, “The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.” (Dr. Martin Luther, from “A Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences,” 1517) In other words, if grace is grace, then it has to be for the other guy too. Do you agree with that statement?

“Do you mean to say that God would forgive someone like the Columbine shooters?” “Do you mean to say that God would forgive someone like Jeffrey Epstein, the convicted pedophile?” “Do you mean to say that God would forgive people like that?”

“We cringe at the news of abuse and violence and carnage that comes to us through various forms of media. “Could God really forgive the murderer, the sex offender and the terrorist?” Or even closer to home, “Does God really offer grace to that person, who has treated me, my family, and my friends so badly?”

The answer is clear when understanding what grace truly means. Take a moment to think about yourself and your sins. Do you deserve God’s forgiveness?

The answer is no because God’s forgiveness is totally undeserved. That’s grace. And why would grace be any different for anyone else? How could grace be any different?

Take that truth inside your home, where you go to school, where you work, and into your neighborhood. Would God care any less for that person who hurt you, than he does for you when you have hurt others also?

“If grace is grace, then it has to be for the other guy too!”

“An added blessing that goes along with that truth, is that when Satan throws back in your face all the accusations of all your worst behavior or when your conscience simmers on the memories of the worst thoughts that you’ve conjured up ... you may have fallen to the despair of, “Maybe the grace of God is for the other guy. How could it be for me?”

God’s Word assures us of this, that grace is not based on what you do or have failed to do. God’s grace remains certain and unchanging, because it is rooted in the heart of God. Grace is God’s love and generosity. It is God’s actions toward you. It is God’s peace with you in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of all your sins and the sins of all the world.

Grace was not just for the many characters mentioned in the Bible. Those people were sinners just like you and me. That is our comfort. Grace is for the other guy ... and for me!

Spread the Gospel of Grace,  
LWMLers! 🌿



Pr. Trent  
Christensen

SENIOR PASTORAL  
COUNSELOR

*In Christ's Service*



Amy Schultz

VP GOSPEL  
OUTREACH

## 2018–2020 Biennium Mission Grants Recipients

	Granted	Paid
Intern at Navajo Reservation in New Mexico	\$9,600	\$9,600
Trinity/HOPE	\$5,000	\$2,000
University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder	\$6,000	\$6,000
Messiah Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado Mesa University	\$6,000	\$6,000
Fostering Faith in the Forest (LVR)	\$5,000	\$2,500
St. Andrew Lutheran Church Plant	\$6,700	\$6,700
Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission	\$7,500	\$5,350
Lutherans for Life Post-Abortion Crisis Hotline	\$5,000	\$2,500
The Table at Bethlehem Lutheran Church	\$5,000	\$5,000
Financial Assistance for Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op	\$8,000	\$4,000
To Establish Lutheran Seminary in Sierra Leone	\$10,000	\$6,100
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>\$62,514</b>

### St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, N.M.

Things have been very busy at St. Andrew church plant in Albuquerque, N.M. Established to reach out to the people in the southwest area of the city, St. Andrew is a welcoming place to receive God’s mercy and grace through Word and Sacrament ministry. Missionary Rev. Adam DeGroot serves at St. Andrew,

which is also supported by local congregations.

In August, the first Council members of St. Andrew were installed. Then in September the congregation was chartered and entered a constitution. Surely the Lord is working in the hearts of the people of Albuquerque!



First council of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, N.M.

The most recent news is that we have fully funded our Mission Grant of \$6,700 to the St. Andrew Church Plant. Praise the Lord! Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers. 🌿

## The God of Second Chances

☞ We have heard the story of Onesimus, the slave that ran away to Rome and was converted to Christianity by Paul. (Philemon 1-21) Paul sends him back to Philemon, his former master, as a helper for the young Christian church. He even uses Onesimus' name as a play on words. "Onesimus" means "useful" in Greek, but Paul points out to Philemon that he was "useless" before but is very useful now. God took it one step further, and Onesimus went on to become

a Bishop of the early church. Talk about a second chance! How often do we judge ourselves or others over a mistake, thinking that this has ruined everything, and nothing good can come out of this situation? Luckily, God is a God of second chances. Trust that He will use you for His purpose, whether you can see it right now or not. *For I know the plans I have for you, declared the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* Jeremiah 29:11 🌿



Shelley Stewart

VP SERVANT  
RESOURCES

## Making Preparations

☞ It's amazing – we are already approaching the end of another year. We will soon begin our preparations to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Have you checked out the LWML website (both the national and the district) for devotions to celebrate both Thanksgiving and Christmas?

☞ DVD Bible studies are still available for loan. Contact Beth Nagy

for information on which studies are available. Other non-DVD Bible study guides are also available for loan.

Speaking of preparations, district convention preparations are well underway. Are you making plans to celebrate with us at Keystone? Looking forward to seeing many of you there. 🌿



Beth Nagy

VP CHRISTIAN LIFE

*President's article continued from page 2.*

amazing job of presiding over their rallies. We will spend time together at our Board of Directors meeting in February celebrating the good and brainstorming solutions for the challenges that face each our zones.

Thank you to my wonderful hostesses Vera Loose, Mary Kellogg,

Tanya Hall, and Sandra Casand, as well as my sister Dawn Rose. Your warm hospitality was greatly appreciated.

☞ Keep watching for information about the 2020 Keystone Convention over the next few months. I can't wait to see you all then. 🌿

*Debbie*



☞ Remember to send your mites each month to our RMD Treasurer:  
LWML RMD  
Chris Bostron,  
Treasurer  
PO BOX 1424  
FORT MORGAN, CO  
80701



IN THE ZONES

## Fall in the Rocky Mountain District

Fall in the district means fall rallies and LWML Sunday. Many hands have been working across our vast district. Each zone has a special place in our district. This is just a sample of what has happened

these last few months through photos. President Debbie's article provides additional highlights of fall rallies. Quilts from the Northeastern zone's fall rally highlighted during an opening devotion. 🌿



Pecos Zone — present zone Pastoral Counselor and a past LWML RMD Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Gary Piepkorn leading the two-part Bible study *A Clean Heart*.



Southern Zone — Mary Jane Zobel and Betty Keller, Immanuel Lutheran, Colorado Springs, Colo., working on the 2019 LWML Sunday Banner.



Southern Zone — Ingathering gifts of birthday items waiting to be packed up for Bethesda.



South Central Zone — Marie McQuarrie introducing Adam's Road at Immanuel Lutheran, Englewood, Colo. Ladies talked with Adam's Road after the concert and sent them on their way with much food.



## Just Ordinary, Strong Lutheran Women

I recently attended a ladies' retreat at Lutheran Valley Retreat and the speaker, Lisa Hellyer, presented four Bible lessons on strong women of God. We learned that strong women, like those mentioned in the Bible, are usually just ordinary women going through life doing their jobs, but they also loved the Lord and placed their lives before God as an offering. They were willing to follow God rather than the world around them and became vessels of God's strength and in so doing, were able to accomplish extraordinary things.

In honor of All Saint's Day, I would like you to join me and the rest of LWML Rocky Mt. District to remember three Rocky Mt. District past presidents who have gone to be with our Lord this past year. Delores Rhode died February 22, president term 1974–1978; Pauline Groerich died May 27, president term 1978–1982; and Ramona (Mona) Mueller died August 1; president term 1990–1991.

Each of these "ordinary" Lutheran Women in Mission were strong in their faith in our Lord and Savior and willing to put their lives in the hands of our triune God to

accomplish extraordinary things for Him and to serve the LWML with humility, glad hearts, and joy!

Each of these "ordinary" Lutheran Women in Mission offered encouragement and words of Christian wisdom and love in their *Tidings* articles. Although Mona's term was cut short because her husband, Rev. James Mueller, accepted a call out of district, she served our district with grace and love, as did Delores and Pauline. All were active in their respective societies as well as in zone, district, and international/national positions both before and after their tenures as Rocky Mt. District Presidents.

We honor them and celebrate their service to us, Lutheran Women in Mission — we are sisters in Christ!

Delores Rhode, Rocky Mt. District Northern Zone; member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colo.

Pauline Groerich, Rocky Mt. District North Central Zone; member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Denver, Colo.

Ramona (Mona) Mueller, Rocky Mt. District Northern Zone; member of Peace with Christ Lutheran Church, Ft. Collins, Colo. 🌿



Susan Avila  
ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN



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